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Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 31 May 1993 | The Comics Industry Monthly | 80 pages 50p / $1.50

DC Comics unveils the new-look Dark Knight - in shining armour

The new Batman

WHILE DC Comics still basks in the massive publicity-driven sales increase generated by the *Death of Superman* storylines, the company is working towards a similar boost for its other superstar superhero, Batman.

Just as speculation currently surrounds the four pretenders to the Superman name, the outcome of the current Batman serial, *Knightfall*, has resulted in wild predictions over the fate of the Dark Knight.

Similar to the creation of Doomsday to destroy Superman, Batman will suffer grievously at the hands of his own new nemesis, Bane, whose inhuman strength is derived from the drug introduced in the **Batman: Venom** storyline. New hero Azrael, programmed since birth to serve as an assassin, will take on the Batman identity and, in an armoured update of the original costume *(see right)*, become a far darker Dark Knight.

Bruce Wayne & Alfred embark on Knightquest: The Search

But while the August on sale **Batman #500** resolves the *Knightfall* storyline, the 64 page issue which ships as both a $2.50 newsstand comic and as a $3.95 Collector's Edition with a die-cut over-cover, also introduces two new crossover serials.

Knightquest: The Crusade follows the brutal new Batman, while *Knightquest: The Search* has the original Batman Bruce Wayne go undercover with his butler Alfred, to investigate the mystery of Robin's kidnapped father.

*Right: Batman #500 cover by artist Mike Manley who switches from Marvel's **Darkhawk** to DC's **Dark Knight** to take over the pencils from Jim Aparo in the 64-page special.*

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NEWS america

Hawkman flies again

CONSTANTLY redefining its Silver and Golden Age heroes, DC is once more revamping its 1939 creation *Hawkman* in an attempt to appeal to a hard-edged 1990s audience.

Following the generally disappointing **Hawkworld** series, **Hawkman** will be an Archie Goodwin edited $1.75 new format title written by John Ostrander, currently enjoying success with his popular **Spectre** series as well as Valiant's **Magnus** and **Rai**.

While the character's new costume echoes both the Joe Kubert 1960s version and Tim Truman's 1980s metallic update, with his new weapons and new powers this latest version promises to be truer to his hawk name. As a literal bird of prey, the hard-edged urban hero soon shows his talons and his extreme measures in meting out his own brand of justice soon comes to the notice of the Justice League.

With Green Lantern Hal Jordan guest-starring in the first story arc, **Hawkman** is pencilled by Jan Duursema, last seen on **Hawkworld** and **The Incredible Hulk**, while inks are provided by **The Question** and **Aliens'** Rick Magyar.

*Debuting with a $2.50 foil-embossed cover, **Hawkman** returns as a monthly new format series by Ostrander, Duursema and Magyar. Issue one ships July 20th.*

Hawkman Fact File

First appearing as a support strip in **Flash Comics #1** (January, 1940), Hawkman was created by DC mainstay Gardner Fox, who added a female companion, Hawkgirl, in #24 (December, 1941). With Sheldon Moldoff drawing issues 4-61, it wasn't until #62 that the now familiar style of Joe Kubert took over, remaining on the strip until the final **Flash Comics**, #104 (Feb, 1949).

A founder member of the Justice Society of America, Hawkman also appeared in **All Star Comics** from the first issue (Summer, 1940) in a beaked cowl, which was switched to a tight yellow mask in #42.

Despite being one of the most popular supporting characters, unlike Flash and Green Lantern, he never acquired his own title until 1964, following a three year tryout in **Brave & Bold** #34-36, 1961, plus #42-44, 1962 and **Mystery in Space** #87-90, 1963. As well as his 27 issue 1964-1968 series, he became a member of the Justice League (#31) and became co-star in **The Atom & Hawkman** #39-45 (1968-1969). A Golden Age reprint run in the giant sized **Detective Comics** (#434-467) and **World's Finest** (#256-297) followed, and a brief revival in **Showcase** (#101-103). But when Steven Spielberg lost interest in a movie deal, the character was abandoned until Tony Isabella wrote the 1985 mini-series **The Shadow War of Hawkman** which, despite poor critical reaction, led into a 1986-1987 17 issue series and a 1986 Special.

But Timothy Truman's 1989 3-issue bookshelf title **Hawkworld** totally revitalised the character, resulting in the recently cancelled continuing series, let down only by the often crude art of Graham Nolan, which even the return of Truman appeared too late to save.

With Spielberg's vision of a silent avenging night hawk creature finally being realised through the new series which displays stunning preview art, there may be life in the old bird yet!

New readers: begin here

***Comics International** is a monthly industry trade newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular newsstand outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. In our news section, these comics are noted. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialist shops in Britain is given in our Retail Index.

***Shipping dates** mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to newsstand on sale dates or titles.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

***American dollar prices** are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.*

*For full details concerning advertisers displaying the **CoBRA Mail Order Protection** symbol, see page 126.*

Dark Horse launches 16 part maxi: Comics' Greatest World

IN A SUMMER of publisher overkill, where seemingly everyone is producing a new universe of super-heroes, the hitherto restrained publisher Dark Horse enters the fray with their immodestly branded *Comics' Greatest World*.

Combining their proven limited series approach (**Aliens, Predator,** etc) with Eclipse's **New Wave** and **Airboy** format, Dark Horse is producing a 256 page story broken down into 16 $1 issues, each with 16 colour pages and cardstock covers.

But rather than a simple maxi-series, Dark Horse has chosen a unique approach. Instead of being numbered 1-16, the weekly shipping issues each have their own super-hero logos (sixteen first issues?) and are broken down into four groups, each titled by a location in the new super-hero world.

Part 1: Arcadia

Beginning with a June 15 shipping date, the first four issues are all written by Jerry (**Aliens: Hive**) Prosser and are set in the fictitious US town of Arcadia:

● **X** (art by Chris Warner & Tim Bradstreet) stars an enigmatic blue-clad man of action with tattered red cloak and, seemingly, the biggest drawback for any super-character, only one eye (see below and right). Frank Miller provides a Dark Knight-style cover as shown above, left.

● **Pit Bulls** (art by **Timber Wolf**'s Joe Phillips & John Dell) is a team book focusing on the subjects of the Pit Bull Project, a cancelled government operation, in which the unstable subjects (the inevitable three men and one woman) are now let off their leashes. Cover art (below, right) by **New Mutants**' Bob McLeod.

● Creatively the strongest of the new titles, week three's **Ghost** features art by Adam Hughes and Mark Farmer. Ghost is a wraith-like woman with a desire for revenge against her assassin, and, armed with two Colt .45s, she won't let anyone stand in her way -- including X who makes the mistake of also tracking down the killer. Cover art (above) is by **Aliens: Tribes**' Dave Dorman.

● The first location's titles is concluded with the July 6 shipping **Monster** featuring art by Derek Thompson and Ande Parks. Behind a cover by **The Mask**'s Doug Mahnke, the story tells of a sewer-inhabiting creature of limitless strength and an all-consuming anger, as X discovers when he crosses the Monster's path.

Creative director of the series, Randy Stradley comments, "The series will focus on events in four geographic areas in this fictitious world, and the effect they will have on the key heroes and villains in our new superhero continuity."

"There's one major over-arcing story that ties all sixteen books together," he continues, "Within each our-issue stretch there's a smaller, more specific story and it all culminates in the last issue."

Talking about how most superhero comics concentrate on reviving or revising existing characters to suit modern readers, writer Jerry Prosser adds, "We've approached *Comics' Greatest World* from the other direction: What kind of world creates superheroes and what sorts of people would they be?".

IN BRIEF

A new Icon

BREAKING a US mainstream taboo, Milestone's **Icon** features a first for hero sidekicks as Rocket gets a positive read out from an instant pregnancy testing machine and, in the July 20 shipping **Icon #5** by McDuffie & Bright + Gustovich, she sets out to confront the father-to-be.

Meanwhile Icon follows a more traditional path as he takes on The Blood Syndicate in Milestone's first inter-title slug-fest.

Thor Corps debuts

WHILE it is still too early for the Tom DeFalco scripted **Thor** spin-off title **Thunderstrike** to achieve any sales pattern, July sees not only its fourth issue but also the launch of DeFalco's new $1.75 **Thor Corps** 4-part mini-series, illustrated by Pat Olliffe.

The story tells of the future Thor, Dargo, recruiting the aid of Beta Ray Bill, Thunderstrike and the norse god himself to battle his greatest enemy Demonstaff.

Both **Thunderstrike #4** ($1.25, DeFalco & Frenz) and **Thor Corps #1** ship on July 6.

Spawn vs She-Bat

PROVING to be busy outside of his own Continuity titles, Neal Adams has several projects and crossovers on the boil. His work will soon be seen for Jim Shooter's new Defiant imprint as well as writing and drawing the June launching Now Comics title, **Mr T and the T-Force**.

He has also made an arrangement resulting in Spawn making guest appearances in the **Valeria the She-Bat** #3 & #4, complete with a gatefold cover by Adams and McFarlane, and bagged in a foil wrapper. The $2.50 issues ship in July and August.

This follows the June completion of Continuity's *Deathwatch 2000* relaunch serial and precedes *The Rise of Magic*, set to run from July to December and finally engulfing the entire Continuity line of characters, including the relaunched **Samuree**, set for a July debut.

X-Men extravaganza

DESPITE being the third part of a six-issue story arc, Marvel's July 6 shipping **Uncanny X-Men 304** (by Lobdell & Romita Jr) is being promoted as *the* 30th anniversary issue for the title.

A 64 page $3.95 special, it features a wraparound cover of Magneto, described as a polaroid hologram. The story includes the entire X-family of X-Men, X-Force, X-Factor and Excalibur as they gather to bury a friend, only to be confronted by Magneto, as one of their team turns against them.

Golden Age discovery

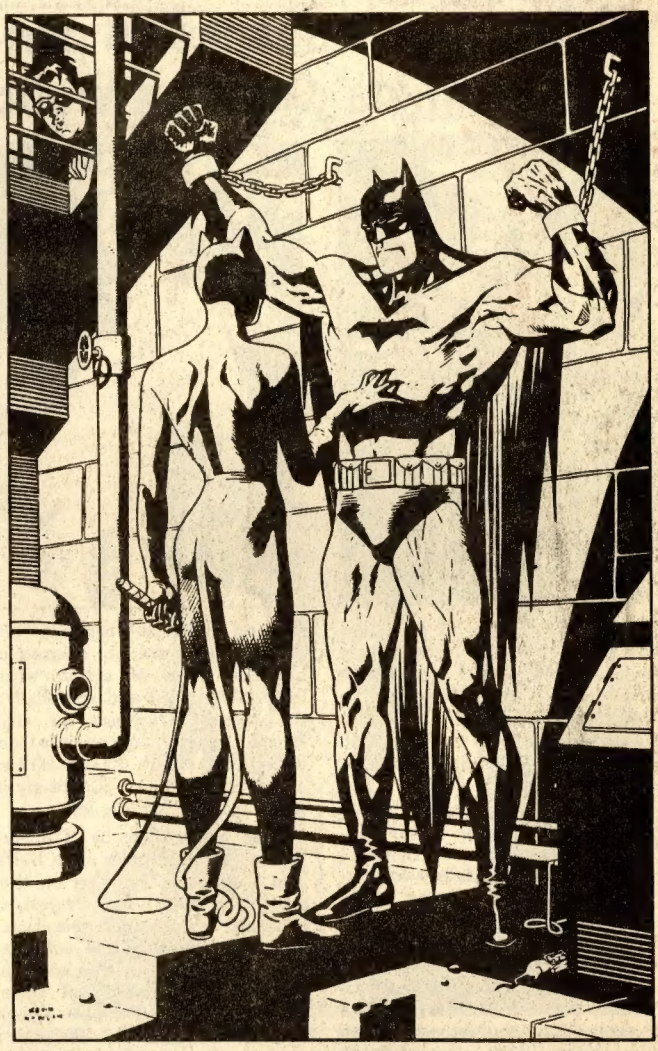
One of the drawbacks of collecting US comics in Britain is that hardly any were distributed prior to 1960. So the chance of discovering any rare gems is almost non-existent.

But one London-based retailer, ironically an American, was offered a "box of old comics" when someone walked in off the street, having been directed to him by a nearby Popular Book Centre.

Skinny Melink suddenly found himself face to face with a range of 1930s comics including copies of **Detective Comics** #17 and #19 (both published a year *before* Batman was created).

The next day, happy with the price, the man reappeared with a second pile which he didn't consider as good. These included a **Detective Comics #1**.

Only two weeks earlier, the nearby Bexleyheath *Edge of Forever* had been offered a **Superman #1** from a passer-by. But owner Mike Conroy had been out for 15 minutes, and refused to believe his assistant was serious when retelling the story. A week later the man (who had not left a phone number) returned, saying he'd happily sold the comic to America's Smithsonian Institute.



*CELEBRATING its 50th issue, with continuity set before the current **Knightfall** serial, **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #50** is a 64 page $3.95 special shipping on July 13th. Brian Bolland's foil-embossed cover art showcases a Denny O'Neil/Bret Blevins self-contained story as the Dark Knight has what he believes to be his first encounter with a bizarre, maniacally twisted criminal genius who calls himself The Joker. The issue is rounded out with a pinup section featuring art by Howard Chaykin, Jim Lee, Mark Schultz, Mike Zeck and (above) Kevin Nowlan.*

Sky Comics to launch two

LOST in the wave of new super-hero universe launches, Sky Comics has two new titles set for June shipping.

● **Morgana X Special #1** is a 32 page $2.50 black and white title by Quinton Hoover and Allen (**Speed Racer**) Freeman. It tells of a notorious gun-for-hire who has a hidden past and a secretive present. Three separate stories introduce the character in a prelude to her forthcoming mini-series this Autumn.

● **Race Danger** is a 24 page $1.95 black and white one-shot by Joe Martin, Bob Hickey and Dwayne Haddix promising high action, racing cars, espionage and ninja action. It stars Dylan "Race" Danger, a Nascar circuit champion suddenly plunged into intrigue following the death of a loved one.

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F.154

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F.155
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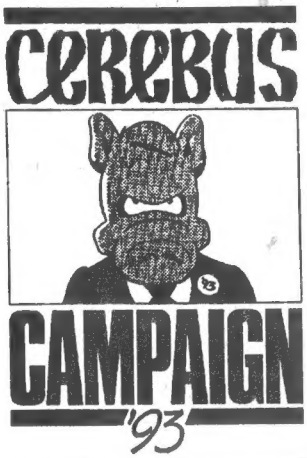
***FLASH #80**, shipping July 13, introduces a new creative team and a new direction for the scarlet speedster as artists Mike Wieringo and Jose Marzan Jr join writer Mark Waid for a special Collector's Edition. While also being published as a regular $1.25 newsstand edition, the $2.50 direct sale version features new regular cover artists Alan Davis and Mark Farmer's art enhances for a dual foil cover. Promising an easy entry point for new readers, **Flash #80** is being supported by a retail promotional poster by Brian Stelfreeze (pictured above).*

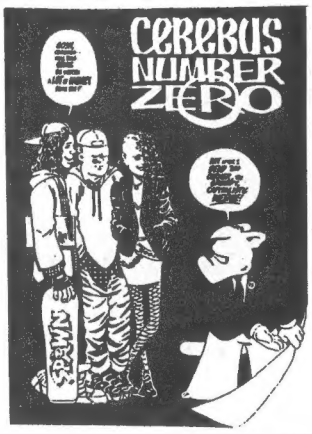
Dave Sim revises Cerebus #0

IN A CANDID letter to the trade, Canadian creator-publisher Dave Sim admitted that the already-solicited **Cerebus #0** "got off on the wrong foot".

"I projected a net loss on the project of between $8,000 and $10,000 but when I had the final quotes in hand, the loss had risen to between $30,000 and $40,000," he explained.

Planned as a $2.25 (£1.25) 96 page introduction for new readers



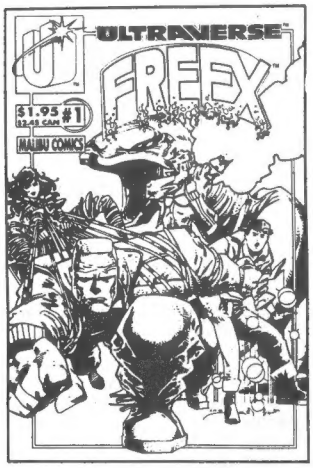


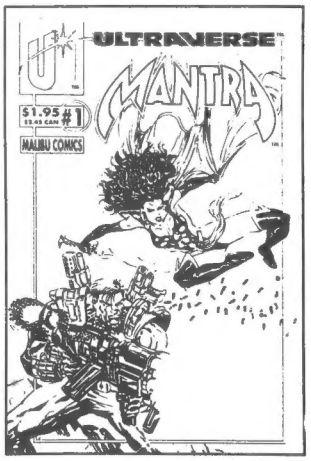
Cerebus #0 cover: Three Spawn/Wizard fans are asking Cerebus if the gold edition will be worth money. "Not after I bend this corner, you greedy, capitalistic weenie!" Cerebus replies.

("a promotional tool, not a cash cow") it is being rescheduled in the wake of Sim's **Spawn #10** script with a gold edition being produced as a one-with-fifty incentive.

Cerebus #0 also aims at regular readers, reprinting and introducing all the issues hitherto unavailable through the trade paperbacks.

Malibu Ultraverse adds two



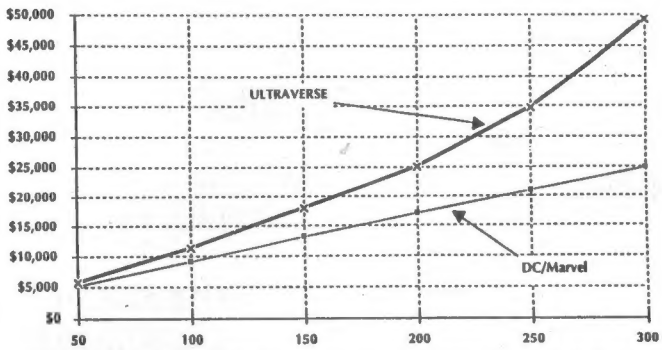


PROVING its commitment to the new *Ultraverse* super-hero line and further strengthening its ideas side, Malibu has announced having signed up writer Chris Claremont, top Marvel colourist Paul Mounts and a top creator "well known for his initials" to their growing team.

Having cancelled the company's Aircel line, president Scott Rosenberg emphasises "We're not looking to expand our line of titles, simply to strengthen them".

One such strengthener is **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine**, set for August release, by Mike W. Barr and Gordon Purcell. While **Dinosaurs for Hire #7**, the company's top selling title, continues its industry spoofing with *Turret, Hunter O'Dinosaurs*.

On the *Ultraverse* front, MTV video director Darren Doane has completed a 30-minute **Hard Case** promotional video, starring kick-boxing champion Gary Daniels, while new $1.95 titles **Mantra** (Mike Barr & Terry Dodson) and **Freex** (Gerard Jones & Ben Herrera) are set for July launching.



Illustrating what Star*Reach's Mike Friedrich calls "the best company-owned deal for creators", Malibu has produced the above chart showing a base line of total sales (in thousands) and how DC, Marvel and Malibu pay writers and artists who do not share a "creator interest" in the work.

*STEVE DITKO, the enigmatic co-creator of Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Blue Beetle, The Question and a host of other super-folk over the last forty years follows his recent pencilling work for Valiant with a new one man one-shot for Dark Horse. **The Safest Place** ($2.50, 32 colour pages) is written, pencilled and inked by Ditko and ships on June 29.*

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*FOLLOWING frustrating delays caused by the amount of time artist Paul Smith has been spending on the project, DC has rescheduled the James Robinson **Golden Age** four issue mini for an August debut. The 48 page prestige format $4.95 title begins with a foil-embossed cover logo and tells of Earth's super-heroes falling prey to McCarthey era paranoia and being hounded into retirement and seclusion. Author Robinson describes the art by ex-Marvel **X-Men** Paul Smith as "stunning, his best work ever."*

Mirage Publishing adds three

WHILE Turtle co-creator Kevin Eastman is leaving publishing to return to the drawing board, his co-creator Peter Laird is expanding the original home of the world famous anthropomorphic amphibians. Mirage Studios is enlarging its operation beyond **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** (soon to become full colour), **Usagi Yojimbo** and **Plastron Cafe**.

Three new titles are set to ship in August, all 32 page full colour books priced $2.75.

● **Bioneers** (above left) is writer-artist A C Farley's creation, telling of outlawed genetic recombination experiments involving human and animal tissue. It introduces Team Dragonfighters, a group of artificial super-humans who soon encounter high tech hardware, robots and more.

● **Stupid Heroes** is Peter Laird's creation, featuring super-beings afflicted with a rare disorder, dementia dominus.

● **Xenotech 1** by Michael Dooney and Robert Jones is also a super-hero title, in which Xenotech is Earth's first line of defense against alien invasion.

IN BRIEF

X-Men 2099 launches

AMID the 30th anniversary celebration issues of Marvel's mutant heroes this summer, **X-Men 2099** is being launched.

With issue one shipping on August 17, the $1.75 title introduces brand new mutant characters in a story by John Francis Moore and artists Ron Lim + Andy Kubert.

The same week, **Wolverine & Punisher: Damaging Evidence** is launched. A $2.00 3-issue mini, it is produced by Carl Potts and Gary Erskine and tells of Wolverine believing Frank Castle to have gone over the edge, and aiming to prevent him slaughtering innocent people. Punisher villains Sniper and Damage make guest appearances.

Also shipping August 17 is **X-Men Poster Magazine #2** ($4.95, 32 pages featuring poster art by Stroman, Byrne, Romita Jr and Jim Lee) and a 48-page special 25th issue of **X-Men** ($3.50, Nicieza & Kubert) with hologram cover art.

It promises to be an expensive week for X-fans!

Creative credits

SOUNDING like a victim of vanity publishing, the writer/editor of new publisher Triumphant Comics obviously had to scrape the barrel when looking for impressive credits.

In publicising his July-shipping title, **Scavengers**, his publicity lists his credits as, "Doctor of Medicine from the University of Virginia, a long time science fiction fan and writer."

That should inspire the trade to buy your comic, Jarrod!

Miller back on Daredevil

FRANK MILLER returns to the character who first made his work popular when he teams up with John Romita Jr and Al Williamson for the five-part mini-series **Daredevil: Man Without Fear**.

Issue one of the $2.95 monthly, printed on *Fanfare* stock, ships on August 24 with a foil-etched embossed card cover. The story tells of the beginnings of the life of *The Man Without Fear*, including many never-before-revealed details in what fans will doubtless be calling Daredevil: Year One.

Elfquest galore

JOINING IN the summer product push, Richard and Wendy Pini's Warp Graphics have four **Elfquest** titles shipping in July.

As well as the continuing **Hidden Years** (#8, $2.00) and **New Blood** (#7, $2.00), they are adding a new series (**Blood of Ten Chiefs**, adapting the Tor novels, $2.00) and the 1993 **Elfquest Summer Special** ($3.95).

All full colour titles, **Blood** is by Richard Pini and Janine Johnson, while the 64 page special features new stories by guest creators including Terry Collins, Sarah Byam, Andy Mangels, Rick Bryant, Kurt Busiek and others.

MEANWHILE...
WORKING FEVERISHLY FROM A SECRET LABORATORY SOMEWHERE IN DARKEST BRITAIN, BILL STORIE AND TERRY DOYLE HAVE CREATED THE GOPHERVILLE ARGUS SPECIAL EDITION No.1 - AN INSIDIOUS AND FIENDISHLY CONCEIVED EXTRAVAGANZA CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST RUNNING DAILY STRIP!!
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JIM SHOOTER
FROM PROTO TO PLASM

His career began as the 13-year old author of Legion of Super-Heroes stories for **Adventure Comics** in 1965. Since then he has been editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, co-creator of Valiant, and returns this summer with appropriately-named new comics imprint, Defiant. On stage at the Glasgow Comic Art Convention, **Comics International** editor Dez Skinn talked to Jim Shooter about his 28 years in comics.

WITH the interview split into sections covering each aspect of his career, Jim Shooter gave frank answers to key points about which he had previously remained silent. This issue begins with his description of his departure from Marvel and how it led to the creation of Valiant comics.

"To tell you the origin of Valiant Comics, I'd have to go back to my leaving Marvel. I started with Marvel in 1976. Through to about 1984 things went pretty well, but that was when the company began to be bought and sold. I was the highest ranking officer at Marvel who was not an owner, and since the owners at that point were interested in selling the company and making a buck - you know, very short term thinking - which put me in the position of being a labour leader, because the people in command were thinking in terms of "Let's stop the pension plan, let's cut out a few of the medical benefits, let's do anything we can to put a few more dollars on the bottom line so that when we sell the company tomorrow, we'll get a higher multiple".

We came to a parting of the ways... At first, I didn't think that I was going to work in comics any more, but the thing that interested me, since the new owners of Marvel were blowing it pretty badly - they were losing about a million dollars a day (this was New World Entertainment; the Marvel division was doing okay but everything else they were doing was losing money), so I said to myself, "I bet I could buy Marvel". Marvel was the piece [of New World Entertainment] that was the most likely acquisition target. And the reason I was interested in buying Marvel was, having been inside Marvel, I knew how much money my comics were making; they were making between 15 and 17 million dollars a year in profit. I knew what the real story was, and I knew that if I went in there and killed Marvel Books and killed the animation studio, ten million dollars would drop to the bottom line, and you can support a lot of debt on ten million dollars!

So I got together a team of people, we raised 81 million dollars and we tried to buy Marvel. We finished second to Ron Perelmean, who bid 82.5 million!

But it taught me how to raise money. I got together a couple of guys, my lawyer and a financial adviser... and we started Voyager Communications. I really wanted to get back into comics, so I kind of turned a blind eye to some of the things that should have been "red flags" to me, signed some things I ought not to have signed, thinking, "It'll be okay, I'll just make really good comics, it'll be okay".

When I was at Marvel, one of the people who'd tried to buy Marvel was Richard Berstein, the head of Western Publishing - who produced Gold Key comics. They used to publish **Magnus Robot Fighter**, **Doctor Solar**, **Turok**, **Mighty Samson**, a whole bunch of other stuff. Since I'd been out of the business for a couple of years, I figured it would be as well to launch with some characters some people would have heard of, at least. So when we decided to start a comic book company, I called him up and said: "Remember me?" and he did. So, we made a licence for those characters.

At the same time as we were negotiating with our original investors, we were approached by a company called Leisure Concepts International; they represented the rights for **World Wrestling Federation** and Nintendo. They offered to do a deal for us where they would fund the comics if we produced them. Well, if someone is going to pay us to do them - so no risk was attached - and they're going to deal with the mass market distribution and all, that didn't seem like such a bad deal... But after we'd started up, the LCI people came back to us and tried to offer it to us as a license - which was the last thing in the world I was interested in. My partner [Steve Musarsky]... did this big pitch about how we should do Nintendo comics, because Nintendo was going to help us sell them - which never materialised. Later I found out that he was on Nintendo's payroll! Also, he was working for LCI, the agents for **WWF**.

The other thing that worried me was that he started dating one of the principals from the financial company - and eventually he married her. So, basically... that gave the investors the majority vote. My other partner... said it was a clear conflict of interests, so Steve Musarsky and his wife - and her partner, they ganged up and fired him. So instead of three officers, we had tow, one of whom was married to the bank. If I had had any sense, I would have walked out at that time. But as I said, I needed to be in comics too much. I just kept telling myself, "It'll be okay, I'll so these hero comics, they'll be a big success and eventually I'll buy the bank out - and I'll buy Steve out" - because these other people didn't want to be in the comics business, they just wanted money. That was pretty naive and stupid. I'm over it now.

But anyway, we finally got to do the superhero comics... and we struggled a while to get people's attention. We were selling 90,000 copies of **Magnus** and then it went down to the 60,000 range.... We sold 85,000 copies of **Solar** 1 and then it was in the 40 and 50 thousands. Coming from Marvel, I thought these were terrible figures, but all the distributors said, "Are you kidding? This is ten times what Continuity sells! If you're selling 50,000 copies and you're not Marvel or DC, you're doing fine, pal!" And then the back issues started going up... and right around February 1992, the books were really starting to take off.

When the Valiant books started taking off, my partner and his wife thought it would be a grand idea to sell the company to her brother and a small group of investors... it would have done a lot of good things for the company in a way. On the other hand, the terms of this deal were that I had to sign a ten-year employment contract, and within this contract... it said specifically that I had no particular job, no particular title... and that I would report to my partner's brother-in-law, who would become the new Chief Executive Officer. I would lose half my stock, also if at any time they chose to fire me - for things like "failing to engender good morale" or - this one was good - "failing to obey the CEO", then they could fire me and take the rest of my stock. It also had lots of technicalities in it, like I had to make representations and indemnifications for documents I had never seen. In other words, I had to swear that something was true that I had never seen.

I showed this to a lawyer,and he said that it was the most draconian document he had seen in 20 years of practice. We asked to discuss some points and the reply was, "We won't change a word, and if he doesn't sign it, we'll fire him". And I wouldn't sign. I got a settlement that just about helped me break even. What did Jim Shooter get from Valiant? Zero. No royalties, no ownership, no characters, no rights, nothing. Basically, I'd spent three years making these people millionaires... anyone can look at the Capital City catalogue and get estimates of the sales. There's a fair chance that Valiant will earn more profit than Marvel this year. The revenues are much smaller than Marvel, but costs are comparatively minuscule. Think about that, folks - that's a lot of money.

Valiant at least was such a success that when I set out to raise the money for Defiant, I didn't have any trouble at all. People were coming to me and saying, "Can you do it again? Here, here's the money." I said to the financial backers [for Defiant]: either you are a passive, silent partner in my company, or forget it. And I was astonished; we went to nine places looking for money - and got nine offers. And the banker who was employed to help with the negotiating - he's not a partner - said that he hadn't seen anything like that positive a response in all his days in investment banking. But this is kind of a weird business, so it doesn't surprise me.

Between the time I left Valiant and the time I started Defiant, every major comic book company made some kind of offer for me to come and create a universe for them. Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, Eclipse, Malibu... so as far as I'm concerned, my little team of people, we're the leaders, the other guys have to figure out how to do it."

The views expressed herein are those of Jim Shooter and do not necessarily reflect those of this magazine.

Next Issue: the Defiant Universe

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DYKE'S DELIGHT

PUBLICATION JUNE 1993

KATE CHARLESWORTH edits this anthology of Comic Strips and Cartoons by lesbian artists in celebration of lesbian life.
Kate herself contributes a story from the life of 'Aunty Studs', her famous character from 'Plain Tales from the Bars', who tells all about the joys of love first time around.
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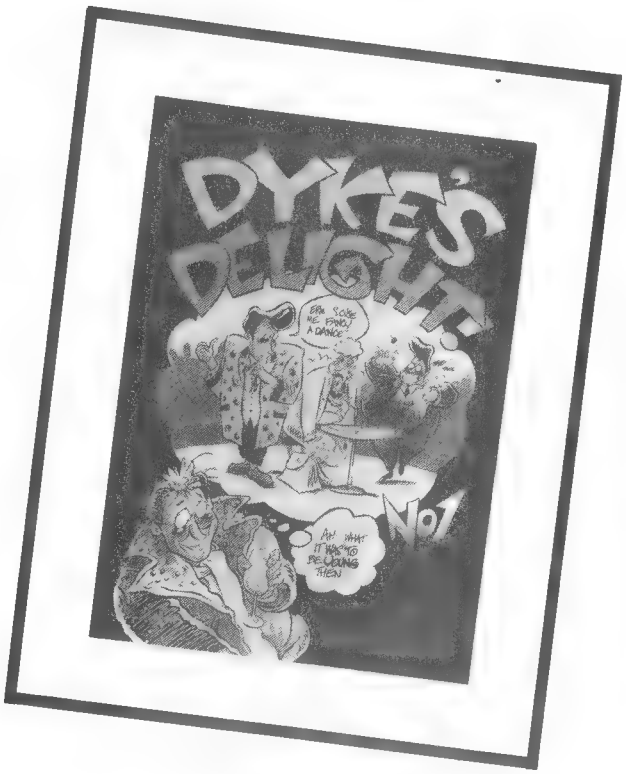

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UK Awards '93

THE 1993 UK Comic Art Awards, voted for by Britain's professional comics community, were presented at the Glasgow Comic Art Convention in April.

The results, showing first, second and third placings, follow:

Best Writer
1: Peter David
2: Jamie Delano
3: Pete Milligan

Best Artist
1: Colin MacNeil
2: John M. Burns
3= Simon Bisley and Sean Phillips

Best Writer-Artist
1: Frank Miller
2: Peter Bagge
3: Alan Davis

Best Newcomer
1: Joe Quesada
2: Chris Halls
3: Travis Charest

Best Auxilliary Contributor
1: Steve Oliffe (colourist)
2: Tim Quinn (Editor, Marvel UK)
3: Dave Elliot (Publisher, Atomeka)

Best Publisher
1: DC Comics
2: Fleetway
3: Dark Horse

Best Graphic Novel (original material)
1: **Night Cries** by Archie Goodwin and Scott Hampton (DC Comics)
2: **Tell Me Dark** by Karl Edward Wagner, John Ney Rieber and Kent Williams (DC Comics)
3: **Skin** by Pete Milligan, Brendan McCarthy and Carol Swain (Tundra UK)

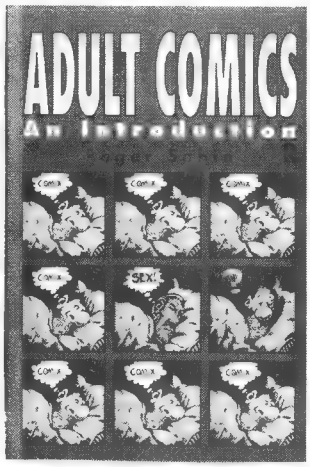
Best Graphic Novel Collection (previously published material)
1: **Sin City** by Frank Miller (Dark Horse/Titan Books)
2: **Killing Time** by John Smith & Chris Weston (Mandarin)
3: **Sandman: Seasons of the Mist** by Neil Gaiman and various artists (DC Comics)

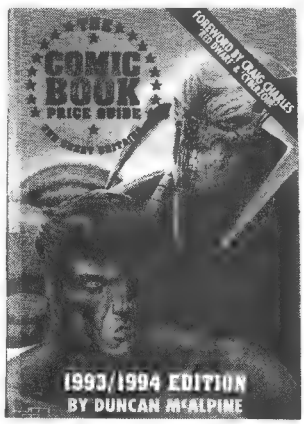
Best Ongoing Publication
1: **The Judge Dredd Megazine** (Fleetway Editions)
2: **Eightball** (Fantagraphics Books)
3: **2000 AD** (Fleetway Editions)

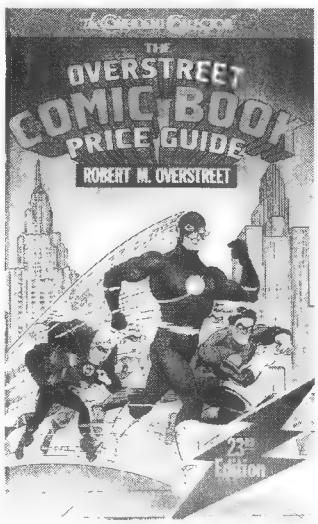
Best New Publication
1: **Archer & Armstrong** (Valiant)
2: **Red Dwarf** (Fleetway Editions)
3= **The Heckler** (DC Comics) and **Overkill** (Marvel UK)

Special Career Achievement
1: John M. Burns
2: Will Eisner
3: Brian Bolland

Comics reference guides







Adult Comics - An Introduction

ROGER SABIN'S history of comics is by turns fascinating and frustrating. To the general reader, for whom it is clearly intended, it offers the most comprehensive history of comics yet published. A great deal of information previously unavailable outside innumerable more specialised publications is presented in a very readable way. Separate sections deal chronologically with British, American and "other" comics, with relevant economic and social contexts smoothly inserted.

Although later chapters sometimes amount to no more than listings and brief synopses of titles, Sabin's fluid writing style keeps your attention engaged throughout.

On its own terms, then, the book is a success, and should do much to inform the general public about a little known field.

So it seems almost churlish to point out that much of the information it presents is seriously distorted by a too inflexible adherence to theme and format. In his eagerness to discuss adult comics only, Sabin barely acknowledges the fact that they have all been influenced by the many decades of juvenile publishing.

In his British section, he skims through eighty years' worth of comics in thirteen pages, and superhero titles fare worse. Even disregarding the numerous simplifications and errors resulting from this fantastic act of compression (British boys' adventure comics, for one, existing long before **Eagle**), Sabin's refusal to regard the juvenile comics as more than a context weakens his thesis that adult comics did not appear during the 1980s as if by magic.

And even the uninformed reader should notice that the division of English language comics into British and American chronologies simply doesn't work. The overlapping of influences to and fro across the Atlantic is too complex to be dealt with in terms of nationality. To make sense of his approach, Sabin is compelled to keep switching the emphasis between creators, publishers and sales methods - thus enabling him to bring American comics into his British section via a discussion of the comics shops.

This constant refocussing ultimately robs Sabin's work of any coherent direction as constant cross-referencing is required to establish a full chronology.

In all fairness though, this book does exactly what it sets out to do - give an introduction to a medium far more complicated than it suggests. Despite its too arbitrary format, it can be recommended to anyone curious about the history of the medium, with the proviso that its authoritative tone should be treated with due scepticism.

- Mike Kidson

Comic Book Price Guides

APRIL was the release date for both **The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide** and Duncan McAlpine's sibling edition, **The Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain**, so comparisons are inevitible.

Surprisingly, the pupil has surpassed the master as the younger UK Guide (volume 5) is now far more extensive than the 23 year old original.

Bob Overstreet, pioneer of comics data compilation, has long maintained that he produces his annual editions not only as value guides, but as a reference work for American comics. But his 1993 edition, in the wake of being overtaken by price guides in **Wizard** and a host of others, has suddenly changed direction.

If a title is not deemed valuable, Overstreet's guide dismisses it with a single line entry for title and publisher. No dates, creator or duration details whatsoever. Hence an Arthur Suydam fan would have no way of knowing the artist actually drew a Pacific title **Demon Dreams**, or when, or how many issues. The only information being: Pacific, value: cover or less. The UK guide gives dates, duration, issue value, series value and creator credits.

In addition, with its extensive UK coverage, plus the new "key golden age" section, the comparably-sized McAlpine guide overs much more information than its American parent.

- Derek G Skinn

INTERLUK '93: British legion fans organise mini-con

Report by Howard W Stangroom

A GROUP OF **Legion of Super-Heroes** fans in the United Kingdom, inspired by the 20th Anniversary of Legion Fandom Reunion organised in the USA last year, has decided to hold an event called *InterLUK - The Seven Year Itch!* in London from July 30th to August 1st, 1993.

The background for the event is explained by Hassan Yusuf, a member of the organising committee and co-organiser of the annual United Kingdom Comic Art Convention.

"In 1972, organised **Legion of Super-Heroes** fandom began in America with the foundation of the first Legion Fan Club. In 1992, a 20th Anniversary Celebration Reunion was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, and attended by many people who had been involved during those twenty years - including myself.' It was a highly successful event, and the thought occurred to us Brits who were there: wouldn't it be great to hold an event like this in the UK?

"In 1986, organised **Legion of Super-Heroes** fandom really took off with the founding of Inertron, the first British based Legion related amateur press alliance. Since then, it's steadily expanded and in 1993 it will have been going continually for seven years - not as significant as a 20th anniversary, but a good enough excuse for a celebration for us! Hence the subtitle, *The Seven Year Itch*. As for InterLUK, the name is a combination of Interlac - the fictitious language of the 30th century - and the UK abbreviation. But of course, you noticed that already."

The event will also celebrate the 35th anniversary of the debut of the Legion, in DC's **Adventure Comics 247** (1958).

The venue for InterLUK is the University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1. The programme for the weekend includes an introductory cocktail party, a semi-formal dinner, exhibitions, debates, games, competitions and other events centred on the 30th century's favourite lycra-clad super teens.

Legion fans from all over the UK - indeed, from all over the world - are invited to attend; an estimated cost for the weekend is £30 per head. Correspondence should be sent to: InterLUK '93, 14 Rebecca Court, 8 Crystal Palace Park Road, London SE26 6EF. A stamped SAE, (or two International Response coupons if writing from outside the UK) should be enclosed with all inquiries.

IN BRIEF

Sutherland solo

FOLLOWING a frustrating year of cancelled titles and non-starters at the hands of various publishers (including **UT, Gag, Kack, Bloody Hell** and the aborted **Carry On Columbus** spin-off) Kev Sutherland now goes it alone with his self-published superhero title **BS1** (after the Bristol postcode).

Set for a June launch, the 28 page £1.50 title is succinctly described by writer-artist Kev as "a crusty *V for Vendetta* meets *Hellblazer* in a British *Sin City*". Mark **(Miracleman, Death)** Buckingham provides a double page pin-up.

Tom Thug serial

BUSTER dated June 26 begins a four-part story in which Tom Thug meets his father's side of the family for the first time

Entitled *Family Gathering*, the story has Grandad Thug, Cousin Knuckles and Auntie Tanya trying to turn Tom into a superbully - with disastrous consequences.

From the July 24 issue, **Buster** features *Tom Thug on 'Oliday*, for six weeks. The August 21 date issue (on sale August 14th) should be of particular interest to fans of the 1960s cult TV show, *The Prisoner*, with Tom making a trip to Portmerion in Wales (where the series was shot) and meeting *Six of One*, the Prisoner Appreciation Society.

With script and art by Lew Stringer, *Tom Thug* has been a favourite among comic fans since he first appeared in **Oink!** When the title merged with **Buster**, Tom moved across to become one of the most popular characters, even ousting Buster himself from the cover of a recent issue.

Heaven sent

HENRY Cook's *Made in Heaven Productions* has found a way to attract large crowds for his new series of fantasy trading fairs in Stevenage. By approaching fans with popular tv and movie memorabilia, then extensive local promotion, he drew over 2400 people to his first *Comic, TV and Sci-Fi Fair*, much to the delight of participating dealers.

For his second show, on Sunday June 6th (see Events Guide, page 78), he has an original studio dalek plus original Cybermen outfits and heads on display.

Cartoon instruments

HOFFNUNG Encore is the name of a new Yamaha-sponsored exhibition of the work of Gerard Hoffnung displaying over 500 original cartoons and real life musical instruments inspired by his work. These include a six-foot long double-slided trombone that takes two people to play.

Comedian Harry Enfield opened the free exhibition which will run until June 15 at the National Museum of Cartoon Art, Carriage Row, 163-203 Eversholt Street, London NW1.

Readers & writers fest

AS PART of Bedford's third Readers & Writers Festival, comics creators Alan Moore and Al Davidson will be squeezed in between Mills & Boon and Labi Siffre on Wednesday 26th May from 11.00am to 4.00pm for a comic illustration workshop.

For ticket information, telephone 0234 269519.

Dark Horse gets Randy

DOUBTLESSLY creating a new nickname for staffer Randy Stradley, Dark Horse's anthology **Cheval Noir** will feature Aidan Potts and Ian Carney's *Randy the Skeleton* beginning with issue 43 ($2.95, shipping June 8).

Originally created for UK small press flagship title **Inkling**, *Randy* has also been a regular feature in Tundra's **Heavy Metal.**

TV comic heading for print

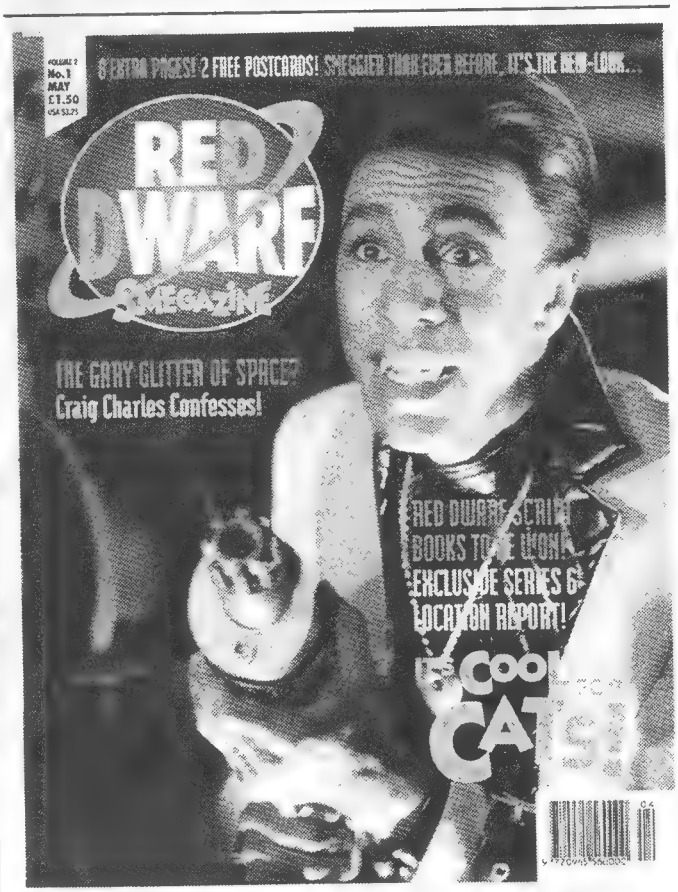
CHARLIE CHUCK looks set to reverse the flow of comic strips being adapted for the screen. The cult TV comedian - whose catchphrase is "Donkey!" - wants to become a cartoon character and has created a strip with Nottingham based artist Mark Reynolds.

The idea is to start running the strip this September, to coincide with Chuck's weekly appearances in a new BBC2 series, *The Smell of Reeves & Mortimer*.

Chuck appears in every episode as Vic Reeves' and Bob Mortimer's "Uncle Peter" and the series is being touted as a *Big Night Out* - but bigger.

The new comic strip is being marketed by television producer John Fleming's company, Shivadance Productions. Fleming says: "The selling point is this. It's a chance to be associated with a successful character that appeals to a young audience before other publishers realise what the potential is. And the potential is very high."

The cartoon Chuck has a simple, childlike streak. He lives with an overbearing wife, a one-eyed dog and a family of ducks, some of which nest in his hair. He carries a plank of wood around with around with him, behaves in a surreal manner and is petulant and unpredictable. In short, he's an adult with childlike characteristics - and with whom, his creators say, both the alternative comedy audience and children can identify.



*WITH THE realisation that there are six million viewers of BBC tv's s-f comedy **Red Dwarf**, Fleetway Editions has committed a large scale relaunch to their licensed spin-off **The Red Dwarf (S)Megazine**. With an advertising campaign aimed at readers of such magazines as **Time Out**, over 80,000 copies of the £1.50 first issue (volume two) have been printed. Its content, edited by Mike Butcher, is balanced between strips, features, interviews and competitions in the proven formula of **Look-In** and the original **Doctor Who Weekly**. A larger format than the previous volume, it also offers improved paper and 48 pages of all-new material. London's Forbidden Planet will host relaunch celebrations at the end of May with signings and personal appearances by cast members & creators.*

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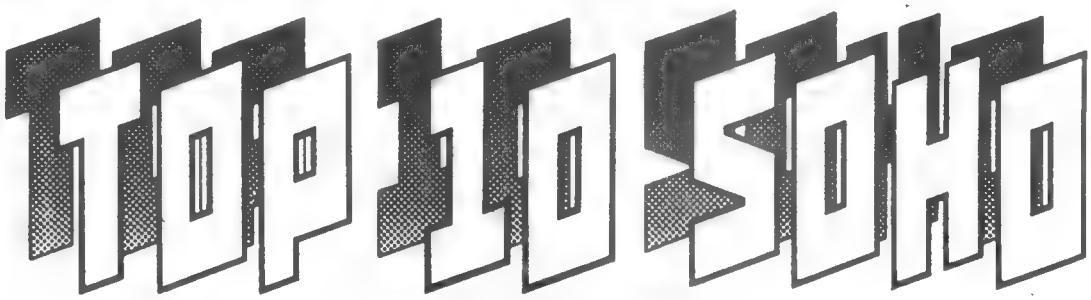

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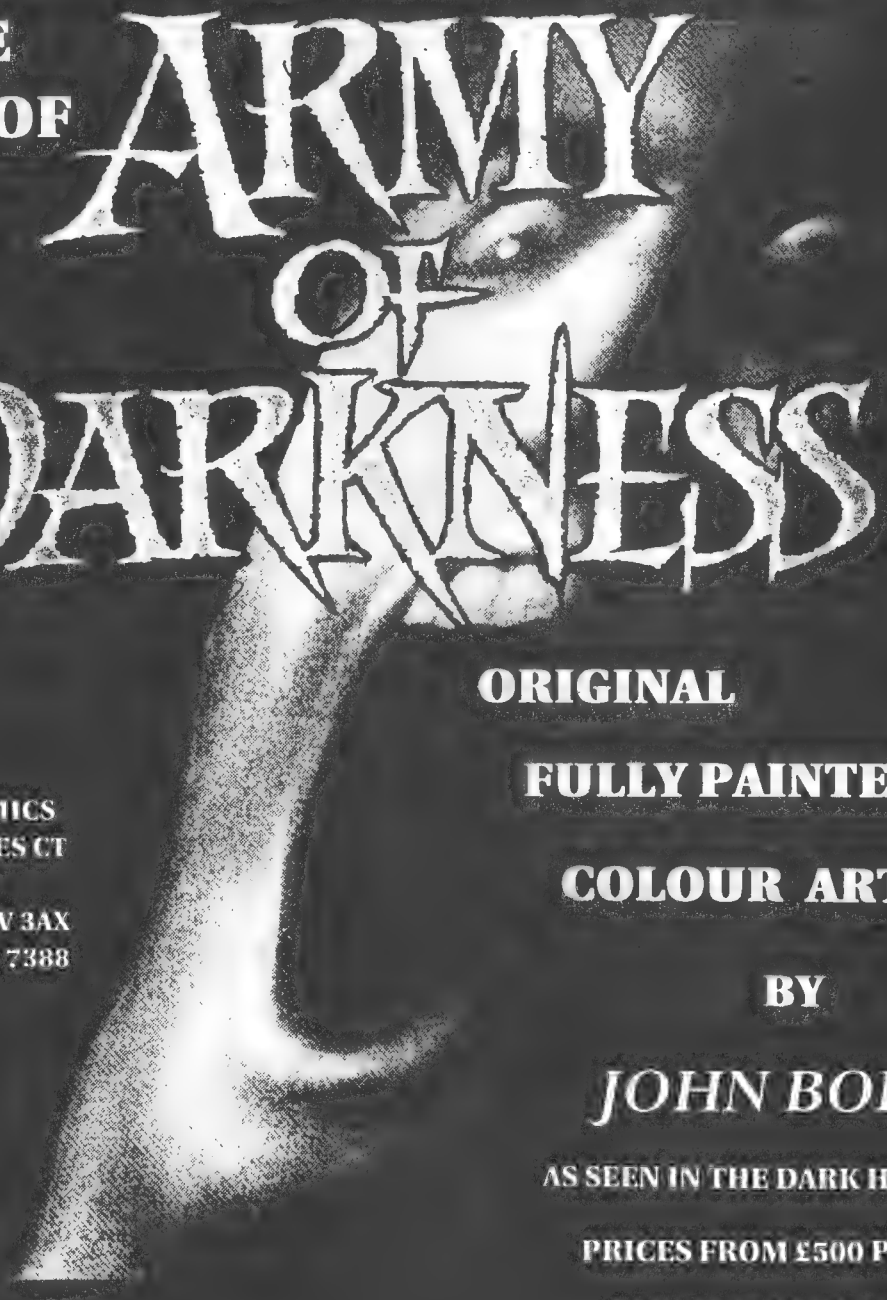

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MEDIA FILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

BRACE YOURSELF for a solid session of anal retentiveness. If you object to naval gazing, stop reading now.

Still reading, I see. Looking through the letters we received this month, I was reassured to see two complaints about the last *Mediafile* (**Comics International** #30) - *and* to hear a message left on the office answering machine. To have evoked three such responses must mean that there's a regular hornet's nest of resentment buzzing out there...

Mediafile's report on the events was, for the benefit of "A Concerned Film and Comic Fan", Adrian Shelley and David Roy, intended to be sensational and exploitative - because that is exactly what happens when the news media gets hold of a story like the West Midlands Trading Standards raid on Birmingham's comic mart, April 4.

If you had been less "concerned" with the inaccuracies reflected therein - taken straight from the media reports - and more aware of *Mediafile*'s purpose and intent your letters of complaint would perhaps have been more to the point.

It is not *Mediafile*'s task to report the news, but to report on the media. Simply read the introduction under the column head and all will be clear.

Concerned? you should be

Just to answer a few points. If, "Concerned Film & Comic Fan", you had read the column more carefully you would have found that it is not I who found the association between low-budget exploitation movies and "our own beloved comics industry frightening and ultimately destructive".

Re-reading the text (as I'm certain you will) you'll find that it is the conjunction between such product and the phrase "children's comic marts" - *when it's reported in the media* - which was the subject of comment, most specifically the BBC Radio 4 *PM* report.

And so to Adrian Shelley. When you complained of my "scare mongering", of wrestling with the "futile task of trying to define porn", I was genuinely disappointed that, like "Concerned", you hadn't actually taken any of the real issues on board - so outraged were you by the "fear" and "cowardice" you imagined I was trying to evoke among dealers.

Just one example (if we really have to do this): if you look at paragraph seven of the text, you'll find the phrase "the definition of what is acceptable varies according to the individual interpreting the laws" refers not to dealers, but to HM Customs officers.

On the wider issue of the defence of the comics industry against the vagaries of censorious times, read Martin Barker, read American history. Even read the newspapers and be aware that, with the current fragile moral and economic climate, the comics industry is no more immune from such media exploitation than the film industry (see Anthony Hopkins' recent reaction to the **Hollywood v America** debate).

But despite the problems that both Concerned and Adrian Shelley had with the text, I'm heartened to see that fans will come to the defence of the industry when they think it's under attack. And I still believe that, whatever inaccuracies appeared regarding the length of time the dealer was kept in custody and so on, *that* is exactly what the public perception of the event was. And no amount of complaining to columnists in comics trade papers is going to change it.

"Concerned" and Adrian Shelley's complaints - however the function of *Mediafile* was misapprehended - were serious enough for this long (some might say tedious) public response.

Snuff: Where it is?

But if anyone's got any ideas about how I should reply to David Roy, I'd be glad to hear them. To give a taste of the message: "A snuff movie involves a woman being kidnapped, raped several times and being murdered while being raped and this is a real story, a real film, not a made up fiction". Any suggestions would be gratefully received.

Shame of the facts is...

Only one more from my grouse bag. Jim Graham (see *Letters*, this issue) suggests that *Medifile* should concern itself with media items to come, rather than reporting on those already gone. Well Jim, I'm sorry to say that tv companies very often don't know what they're going to be transmitting a week ahead, let alone six weeks ahead (which they'd have to do make your suggestion work).

And despite often wishing to do so, newspapers cannot review books before they're available or print features before they've been written... Reporting on the media - and analysing the issues raised is what the column is here for.

I take your point that listing any tv programmes of interest might be useful, but only for those who don't - er, look at what's on tv before switching it on - or setting their videos to record.

And, if you find *MediaFile* a "monotonous" diet, why not write the column *your* way and submit it to the editor? Or maybe even take a guest spot? The worst sin in the world is have a talent unexpressed.

Calling all you fellas

Yes indeed, the media is a nasty piece of work - and just to prove the point I offer the **Daily Star**'s *Yankee Doodles* feature on April 16 for your appreciation.

"Somebody's trying to take all the fun out of your favourite comic strips, fellas", announced the well-known liberal periodical. "A women's artists rights group in San Francisco - where else?", continued the **Star**, "are demanding that the curves in strips that feature women with breasts as big as their heads and costumes as scanty as bikinis be toned down" asserted **The Daily Star**, somewhat confusingly. But who cares when you can get a slur on San Francisco and "scanty as bikinis" and "big breasts" into the same sentence?

Tying up what passed as a report on **A Century of Women Comics Artists** author Trina Robbins, the **Star** smirked, "So, guys, it looks as if you may have to get your kicks from Ben's Kate looking like Mother Teresa and a Superwoman with the body of Twiggy". The defense rests.

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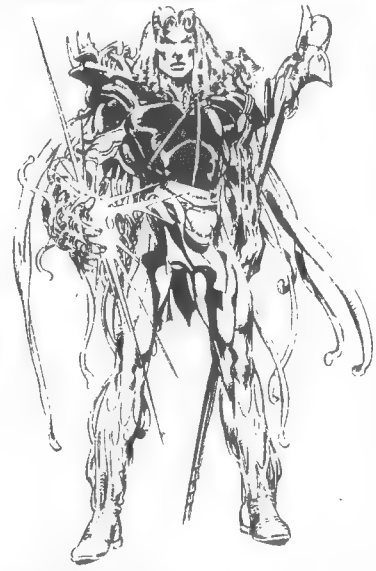

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As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

Where's the real talent?

Comment by Skinny Melink, retailer

THE DEATH OF Superman - temporary as it is - comes at a fitting time, being symbolic of the creative demise of the superhero genre itself. There was a time when the comics field was more balanced, and horror, crime, western and science fiction titles all sold in the millions. But the Wertham **Seduction of the Innocent** report in the early 1950s, followed by the spectacular popularity of the Marvel stable of super beings in the early 1960s, along with the success of the *Batman* TV show (and subsequent demise of the Western) virtually ended the careers of most ordinary comics mortals as super-types came to dominate the industry.

But there is only so much that can be done within those narrow confines, and after some 30 years of little else, the genre has come close to exhausting itself. The same plots, characters and powers have been endlessly recycled since Superman did his first good deed back in 1938, to the point where it seems that as often as not, any *new* character that comes along is little more than an amalgam of various others, sometimes glaringly so.

The prime culprits of late are once again the villainous Image stable, many of whose characters unashamedly look - and act remarkably like some of Marvel's more popular heroes - usually Cable. (Look at Bloodshot, featuring Cable and Wolverine clones; even the logo is a rip-off.) Pick up most any Image title and chances are you've seen or read most of it before.

That is not to say that there aren't any good superhero titles around; just that there are a lot less of them. Aside from Peter David, John Byrne and Mike Grell, it's hard to think of many others writing consistently strong, solid, entertaining superhero yarns. Even those known for their alternative approach to the genre - Miller, Milligan, Moore, Morrison, Gaiman, Delano, Collins and M Wagner - seem to have run out of ideas for the most part, and have been floundering of late.

But all is not lost: there is an alternative, as a new genre of "quasi-realists" (for want of a better term) have emerged recently, offering excitement, entertainment and originality. The genre has its roots largely in the black and white undergrounds of the 1960s - R Crumb's work in particular - while being influenced by the likes of Will Eisner, Art Spiegelman and the Hernandez brothers, among others. What unites these comics is the fact that they're drawn in black and white, generally sharing a loose and easy pencil style while dealing with real life, adult and often adult situations. And almost all are published by either Fantagraphics or Drawn & Quarterly.

The unofficial leader of this group of creators is Roberta Gregory, whose quarterly **Naughty Bits** (Fantagraphics) has just reached issue seven. Working in a deceptively simple but highly expressive pencil style, Gregory is blessed with the ability to be both hilariously funny and serious at the same time, making her point in an amusing, non-preachy way. In issue six, entitled *Hippie Bitch Gets Laid*, her heroine had her first sexual experience during the liberated 1960s. Now, in issue seven, she's discovered that she's pregnant and must endure the horrors of seeking out a back street abortion - this is back in the days when there weren't any other options. In a typical sequence, Hippie Bitch's friend attempts to comfort her with the news that she herself thought that she was pregnant a few times. "Your boyfriend?", Hippie Bitch enquires. "No," her friend replies nonchalantly, "my dad". The next panel is twisted and distorted out of shape, as the reaction sinks in.

In **Peep Show** (Drawn & Quarterly), Joe Matt presents his jumbled, messed up love life and is not afraid to reveal himself as a bit of a prat - though he remains sympathetic. Like it or not, most readers can't fail to see bits of themselves in his characters. Similarly, R L Crabbe (**Adventures on the Fringe**, Fantagraphics) also presents a warts and all self portrait, though his exploits are more extreme. An ageing Californian hippie type, Crabbe chronicles a world of sex, drugs, lawsuits and loonies.

Another veteran of the West Coast scene is Dennis Eichorn, whose **Real Life** (Fantagraphics) presents a series of autobiographical vignettes, each drawn by a different artist. Like Crabbe, Eichorn sometimes displays a tendency towards egoism, but in recent issues the focus has been more on his experience than on himself, and the comic is kept fresh with contributions from the cream of alternative artists, including Dan (**Eightball**) Clowes, Seth (**Palookaville**), Aline Kaminsky-Crumb, Jamie Hernandez, Chester (**Yummy Fur**) Brown, Julie Doucet and others.

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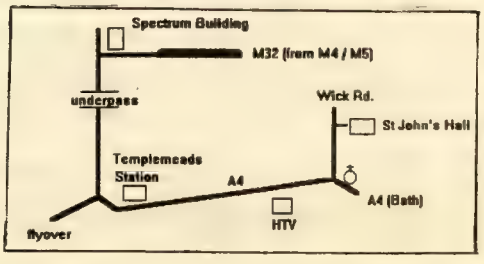

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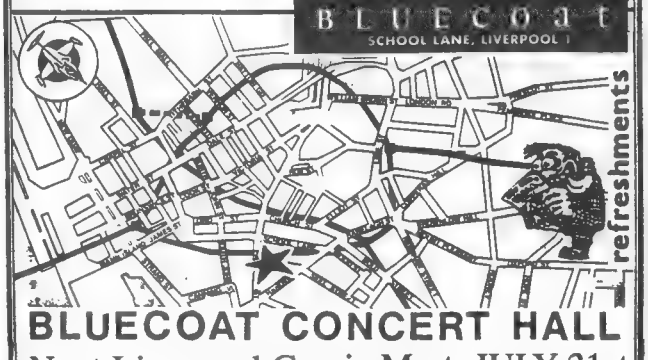

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Although the last mentioned - Julie Doucet - only partially fits into the quasi-realist category, she is one of the most original talents working in the field today, despite being seriously unhinged and in desperate need of a good analyst. Hers is a cluttered, woodcut-like style that gives graphic expression to a dark and bizarre imagination that seems to be equal parts William Burroughs, Charles Bukowski and S Clay Wilson. Through four issues of her **Dirty Plotte** (Drawn & Quarterly) and occasional appearances in anthologies, her concerns range from relating the mild real life trauma of having a wad of bubblegum glue up her mouth while she's trying to impress a guy, through encounters with strange sexual animals to countless fantasies of mutilation and castration. Most of her stories feature Doucet herself and while she's not to everyone's taste, behind the deviance there lurks a brutal, naked honesty, a brassy humour and a powerful creative intelligence.

A fellow Canadian who also deals with matters explicitly sexual is Sylvie Rancourt, whose all too infrequently appearing **Melody** (Kitchen Sink) recounts her life as a stripper, her rocky marriage and her forays into group sex. Rancourt neither exploits nor glamorises her life, and tells her story with a disarming innocence and charm, drawn in a strong, near realistic style by Jacques Boivin.

Space considerations preclude further examples, but good work of a similar nature is also currently being produced by the likes of Seth, Chester Brown, the inimitable Douglas Michael, Terry LaBan (sometimes), Will Eisner (still going strong), the **RAW** gang and, of course, the Hernandez brothers (though their **Love & Rockets** comes out so infrequently these days as to be almost non-existent).

This is where the real talent and creativity in comics lies these days, and any one of the aforementioned can provide a fresh and satisfying alternative to the stale and played-out antics of a boring bunch of superheroes.

Image Comics: is the writing on the wall

Comment by Osama M Salih, Chislehurst, Kent

EVER SINCE the beginning of civilisation in the West (with the invention of the flushing toilet) every important school of thought, art or literature has carried the seeds of its own destruction within it. It may be laughable to apply this theory to the shambolic zoo that is Image Comics, but I think it is applies.

The longevity of comics readership - and therefore of comics companies is usually dependent on that first generation of readers passing on their passion (and collection) to younger brothers, children, etc. What comics writers have to ensure is that their work stands the test of time, appearing still fresh and imaginative to a reader five or ten years after it was published.

The stories need to be challenging enough to stimulate the reader's intelligence and to keep their interest, not just today but in the future. I heard Neal Adams say once that comics are the only reading matter that children will actually go out to buy using their own money.

This is still true of most of the much criticised Marvel line and certainly of DC and Dark Horse. Also I believe that Valiant will fall into the same category. Readers will still be proud enough of these stories, long after the visual impact has dimmed, to want to pass them on, re-read them, or encourage others to do so.

I think that this first generation of readers will prove to be Image's Achilles heel. I truly cannot conceive of a current reader feeling anything other than embarrassment in a few years' time that he or she actually spent money on this dross. Certainly speculator value has an effect, but even this relies on someone down the line wanting your multiple copies of **Youngblood** 1.

I predict that as soon as the present brat-pack discover that you can only fool all of the people some of the time, they will scuttle back behind the skirts of the established comics companies. Then what price **Supreme** 1?

Finally in answer to my initial question: the writing may well be on the wall - it is certainly not in the comic books!

What need for politics?

Comment by Warren Zajac, Northampton

I HAVE BEEN going to comics shops for about 10 years or so and have generally found them friendly, amiable but mostly comfortable. I think it would be true to say that most independently run shops are run by rank amateurs - those people who feel that a business can be made out of a hobby.

I have said before that I don't like dissention among fans, but that's largely to do with a personal belief that the comics industry is a uniquely fragile think and rocking the boat has consistently failed to get positive feedback or reaction for retailers via distributors and publishers - or so your retail allies would have us believe. Being

interested only in reading comics, the need for politics in this green and pleasant land is immaterial to me... that is, until I found myself on the receiving end of a retailer and distributor complacency that finally tempted me to moan.

I view myself as being part of a minor percentage of comics readers - about 20% or so - who buy casually. The judge a book by its cover or try something different this week merchant. I know other people all over the country who do the same thing; in my local shops many customers turn out to be casual browsers.

Because of retailer fear I have missed out on no less than 14 number one issues throughout 1992 (one of them, fortunately, was **Youngblood** 1). I buy **Comics International**, normally through a newsagent because my local comics shop is inconsistent with its supply, so I know what's coming out. But by the time I get to my local comics shop, it has gone. I ended up with a considerable amount of number ones, which can only be described as number twos. It makes no sense to someone who works in the music industry as I do to see retailers frightened of over ordering or speculating on first issues because they cannot get sale or return conditions. No record company in the world would unleash new product onto the market without a retailer failsafe built in. There are enough networks around the country to provide stock transfers, etc. How a publisher fails is by not providing the confidence to push orders high on the first four or five issues of a comic.

Poor availability of product is something I have experienced with five comics shops in my area over the last four years (Blitz, Outer Limits, Forbidden Planet, Fantasy Workshop and Squonk) with only one of them getting it consistently right - and they are not with us any more.

I am fed up with having to suffer the consequences of the relationships between publishers, distributors and retailers. I talk to owners and managers of the remaining shops (one exception being Forbidden Planet) and all I hear is the same story: alienation. They get no help from anyone when it comes to knowing what they should be ordering - the publisher tells them that they should order everything, because it will be hot. So they don't! Many don't re-order because of the fear that they may still end up with overstocks. The thought that Sainsburys and Tesco will not overstock on certain food items because of the fear of *not* selling out would be a frightening one, wouldn't it?

But why blame the distributor all the time, why not blame the retailer for a change. This is money they are throwing away, a captive customer who wants product - but the retailer who won't attempt to locate it because it's a hassle. Or blame the retailer who has a monopoly and doesn't have to re-order because he sees no benefit in doing so. Or blame the retailer for not adhering to his own standing order policy and allows friends, customers or browsers to buy comics saved because the person they were saved for hasn't come in for three or four days.

I have always had a vague distrust of the so-called standing order because I don't buy the same books all the time - with a couple of exceptions - the main reason being the number of times I've heard customers complaining about things being missing from their bags.

The reason the retailer cannot get it right is because the retailer isn't getting any support. A customer does not buy a comic he or she doesn't want, but the retailer won't buy a comic that a customer wants because... and so on and so forth. If retailers haven't got the common sense to re-order on a Monday morning, why aren't the distributors calling them. They do in my business. My father is a greengrocer, they do in his business. My partner works in computer software, his sales team consists of 25 customer sales representatives who are on the 'phone all the time, giving back up, advice - and increasing profit by selling more units, of course.

It's time everyone pulled their fingers out!

Morally & ethically wrong

Comment by Andy Brewer, Salford

I'D LIKE TO say firstly that I'm not someone who easily takes offence. I don't believe in censorship, I do believe that sexual preferences should be respected and I think that if you want to worship a god, then you should be allowed to worship whichever one you choose, get the message? This isn't some Moral Majority type here, just an ordinary guy who likes a drink with his mates and watches football on TV and just happens to really enjoy comics.

But I have to say that recently I have been offended - outraged even - by all the adverts I've seen for **The Trial of Venom**.

Read my lips, everyone: all proceeds from the sale of **The Trial of Venom** were supposed to go to *charity*!

Am I being stupid here? I mean, I'm sorry if my tiny brain has missed the point - and please feel free to educate me if I'm wrong, but to my mind if something is sold for charity, that *doesn't* mean the profits are supposed to end up in some dealer's back pocket; and I couldn't give a damn whether it's scarce or not, or about market forces creating the demand. Morally and ethically there's something wrong here and if you can't see that then I feel sorry for you.

Couldn't you have just this once passed on the profit to the charity it was meant for? And by that I

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don't mean a percentage of the profit or a donation from the proceeds, I mean *all* the proceeds. And don't tell me that by charging £30 for it, you can send a tenner to UNICEF rather than the fiver they asked for and by doing so you're helping them, because it won't wash: you're helping yourself, period. Aren't there enough "hot" items, platinum, gold, puce, whatever coloured covers for your to earn big bucks off without having to take those profits from people who really need the money? What excuse - and I'd love to hear it - have you got for making *any* profit, let alone £15 or £20. Yeah, I know, there's a recession, times are hard, any money's welcome nowadays, a business is there to make money, etc. etc. None of these reasons are justification enough I'm afraid, and you know it. If you aren't going to donate the money you get, then you shouldn't have sent off for it in the first place.

How much money do you suppose would have gone to UNICEF yet never did so because they'd run out of copies? And it really doesn't matter whether it was only available in the US. It is the collective greed of both dealers and collectors the world over that ensured the "one copy only" stipulation would be bypassed.

And to those people who bought this comic and whose money didn't go to UNICEF, I say isn't it about time you took stock of what's happening to this hobby we love. **The Trial of Venom** is only a comic; is it really so important, did you really need it that much? And if you did, then what value do you place on the life of a starving child who's been denied the aid that your money could have bought?

Finally, if you're thinking that sounds a bit over dramatic, then all I can say is I hope you're right. To me though, common sense suggest that if all the money that collectors and dealers paid for this one comic were donated to UNICEF rather than to the gods of profit and greed, then there'd be a fair chance that at least one dead child would still be walking around today. What do you think?

Specialist comic shops

Comment by David Tarafder, Red 'N' Hot Comics

I WISH to comment on Fabio Paolo Barieri's letter (**Comics International** #27), made in response to Patrick Brown's earlier published opinion.

I was surprised by Barbieri's anger towards another person's point of view. After all, it is just an opinion and should be treated as such.

Patrick Brown's idea (*Comment*, **Comics International** #26) to have specialist shops, clearly selling "highbrow" independents and adult aimed comic books, while keeping a distance from the majority mainstream titles may sound ideal, but in practical terms, I think it would be very difficult to make it work.

Independents have, of course, always been a problem for any comic shop to stock, with very little pre-ordering information, and in all honesty, dubious art and stories. No wonder retailers shy away from many of them.

Publishers must give the distributor and trade press more information to offer the retailer, so at least shop owners and managers will have some awareness of new titles from the smaller publishers. But it all depends on money. Shipping information to a distributor is expensive and if the distributor doesn't send it out to customers, it's all been a waste of time, effort and money.

Distributors appear very keen to promote the extensive lines from the mainstream publishers, but not so forthcoming in product from the little guys.

But it's not just lack of support from the shops and distributors; it doeesn't help sales when customs officers have the right to censor what we read. Sometimes adult comics can't even be brought into this country - so they can't appear on shop shelves anyway. Customs guidelines are vague, and very much open to the interpretation of the individual customs officer. I find it strange that violent comics like **Leatherface** and **Child's Play** can be easily bought, but not **Dirty Plotte** or **Naughty Bits** because of their sexual content.

Going back to Barbieri's letter, he wrote that the shops that have got the balance right are Gosh, Mega City and Comic Showcase. I'll agree with him up to a point, but what about Top Ten Soho and the Fantastic Stores? All these shops offer a wide selection of independents, merchandising and small press comics, but still pander to mainstream and so called fanboy tastes.

Barbieri also considered that the Camden Town based comics shop, Meanwhile, closed due to stocking, in his words, "oddball titles". I was one of the managers of Meanwhile, and the reason why we stocked a lot of independent comics and fewer mainstream titles was simply because we felt that the mainstream market was being served by every other comics shop in the city - and Mega-City Comics was just up the road.

Sales of independent material in Meanwhile increased every month, and we were establishing a good customer base, getting regular trade from people who normally wouldn't even think of going into a comics shop. We encouraged our customers who bought what is now the Vertigo line to look at titles from independent publishers and were pleased to see that they added new titles to their regular buying lists as well as continuing with their DC or Marvel comics.

Meanwhile wasn't a shop *suffering* from selling indies - far from it - the bulk of our sales came from comics like **Love & Rockets**, **Eightball**, **Hate**, **Cheeseheads**, **Drawn & Quarterly**, **Lowlife**

and **Palookaville**. In fact, we were ordering more copies of **Hate** than a lot of Marvel titles.

Meanwhile did have its problems, but its closure certainly wasn't because we emphasised so called oddball comics. Barbieri's assumption about the shop closing was made without any knowledge of the actual circumstances.

So, Barbieri, don't take everything so seriously. You have your opinion, Patrick Brown has his and I have mine. None of us will know who's right or wrong, and if the truth were known not that many people would really give a damn!

What we *should* give a damn about, and what is much more important is the role of customs in censoring what we read. When individual customs officers bring their prejudices to bear on what ould or should not be imported into this country, the whole comics industry is subject to the consequent inconsistencies and restrictions on material on retailers' shelves. This censorship has a knock on effect, of course, in that distributors start to censor themselves in anticipation of having comics stopped at customs, so the choice of titles narrows accordingly. This process of limitation will continue, unless the comics industry as a whole makes an effort to fight censorship - look what happened to the industry in the States after McCarthy!

The comics industry is reliant on the retailers, and the retailers' success in expanding their customer base is key to the future of the business; it mustn't let itself be bullied, befuddled or scared by the powers of discretion given to customs officers by ill-conceived and poorly defined legislation.

Comic mart dealing

Comment by Alan J Porter, Forest Comics

Having been a comics collector for the past 10 years and, with my wife as a partner, a dealer for the past 2, I would like to take a self-indulgent opportunity to share with you some of my views.

I initially started out by offering a mail order only service, but quickly began to realise that in an area of intense competition it would be a slow business to build a stable client base. With this in mind we experimented by attending a local comic mart; and have been attending at least one a month ever since.

During the past 12 months I have seen dealers such as ourselves referred to as "suit-case merchants", "part-timers" and "weekenders" as if we do not take the business seriously and are only *after a quick buck*.

While there may be some for whom this cap fits, I would like to argue against all of these descriptions, and their attendant misconceptions, for the majority of comic mart dealers. Selling via marts is a time consuming business and probably requires as much dedication as running a retail shop.

As well as holding down a full-time job we have to invest the hours required to run the comics business which turns out to be about the equivalent of ten hours a week plus the mart's full day.

Ten hours a week may only be one working day in a shop but it's two hours out of every evening after finishing the "day job" and getting the kids off to bed.

I'm not laying on a sob story as I love being part of this business and I also know how hard running a retail operation can be, but the point I'm making is that being a comic mart dealer is not a case of throwing a few hot comics in a box and reaping the profits.

The question was asked in a recent *Movers and Shakers* column as to why mart prices were the same as shop prices when the mart dealer does not have the overhead of a shop. Perhaps I can answer that in two parts:

1. Break-even Point - In order to make a profit you first have to cover your costs. Take the comic shop of 500 square feet. Open six days a week the owner can need £1000 a week to break even (covering staff, power, rates, rent and such). Hence his break-even point works out at 33p/sq.ft/day.

A comic mart dealer with 2 six foot tables at a cost of £25 each has a far higher break-even point, £2.08/sq.ft/day, six times more than a shop.

2. Profit Margin - The figure above only gives a break-even point to cover the table costs; adding car, petrol and meal costs soon increases the figure. As the average selling price for a comic is around £1.20, it leaves little room for profit. Our profit margin is about half that of a typical retail outlet. From that profit we invest in new stock, supplies, advertising etc. A small comic mart dealer does not have the purchasing power of a shop owner and therefore his purchase price per item is usually higher. Adding all these factors together leads to mart prices being on a par with shop prices.

If I've made comic mart dealing sound all hard word and low profits then why do I do it?

Firstly for a love of comics and the chance to meet other aficionados. Secondly it means I can buy comics in bulk I might not otherwise have bought, even if I do sell them on (on occasion parting can be such sweet sorrow). Lastly, it covers some, but not all, of the running costs of my wife's car!

The market in general: This brings me to the matter of speculators and investment buyers. To my mind this is a double edged sword. The increasing value of comics and their sometimes dramatic prices can open the general public's eyes to the joys of comic books. If it attracts more people to the hobby and raises media awareness above the "Zap! Holy Comic Books" type of article then all well and good. But while speculation has its

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benefits it also has its down side; multiple copies, marketing gimmicks, speculative pricing, etc. I think these types of things can be avoided in two ways.

1. The Publishers should stop pandering to the speculator market. Multiple copies of a first issue may be good for sales but how many retailers are sat on thousands of copies of **X-Men #1**? How can a book with a print run of millions ever become a valuable item? The polybagging of comics is also a dubious practice. If you take it to a logical conclusion, how long will it be before somebody produces a polybagged comic with blank interiors as they know no-one will open the bag to read it, as this will reduce the investment potential.

Don't get me wrong, I don't totally disapprove of gimmick covers but why can't we stick to comics we can open and read with the full story in one edition. What happened to the days when a reprint was called a reprint.

2. Dealers could help by adopting an agreed pricing policy. The policy we adopt is that once a comic has been priced (at around current market value) and placed for sale at a mart, then it remains that price (or reduced but never increased) until sold.

If a subsequent column of *Movers & Shakers* declares it contains "the first appearance of Cable's grandmother's pet poodle" leading to an increased market value we still don't change our price. If we obtain more copies of the newly hot comic then they are priced at the current market price, but we probably had to pay more for them anyway.

I'm not proposing this be enforced as an industry standard, but it would be good if members of CoBRA gave it some thought.

Talking to some dealers recently lead me to believe that there is a lack of understanding of basic economics around. Two recent examples follow.

Pricing: At a recent mart the dealer on the next table to me was expressing concerned that he had sold a certain comic a week previously at £30 while someone three tables away, had it on the wall at £100. Who got their pricing right? The one who sold at a profit, satisfied a customer and generated cash to re-invest; or the grumbler with his cash tied up in the inventory on the wall?

Stock Levels: Another dealer was moaning about the amount of material being published and that there wasn't enough space in his shop to stock everything.

While I agree that there is an unprecedented glut of titles at the moment; part of the skill of running any retail operation is knowing what to stock and in what quantities. No newsagent carries every magazine available and I personally wouldn't expect every comic shop to stock a every title. The people to ask what titles you should stock are your customers!

Both of the dealers who made these comments have been through financial problems in the last 12 months. It raises the question if there should be some sort of advice or training available for aspiring comic shop owners and managers from a central source, CoBRA for example.

A slow evolution

Comment by Gavin Palmer, Weymouth

In response to Patrick Brown (*Comment*, **Comics International #28**) I'd have to say that I do feel public perception of comics as a valid (ie. acceptable to adults) story-telling medium has actually improved markedly in my time as an enthusiast.

Admittedly it is an awfully slow process, but had you walked into bookshops such as Athena fifteen years ago or so, the only strip work you'd have come across may have been the odd **Asterix** or **Tin-Tin** album in the children's section. Nowadays, even if the selection is sometimes pitiful, there are softback and hardback comic-strip books to be found, with non-superhero items usually to the fore.

Progress is being made, helped by the appearance of magazines such as **Comics International** and **Comic World** on the newsstands, and though we'd all like it to be quicker, I think that if we were looking for the sort of acceptance enjoyed in Japan for instance, where comics are as prevalent on the rush hour Tokyo Tubes as newspapers, we could be in for a very long wait indeed!

Personally, I think it might help somewhat if there was some middle ground in today's comic output. On the one hand you have deathless, storyless, violence-addicted action characters (I for one don't feel the Judge Dredd/Lobo/Robohunter mob have any more appeal than the "superheroes") and on the other, you very often have high-brow, stylistically-radical, convention-challenging works of art that may well be valid in their own right but are hardly going to attract the everyday man in the street.

It's akin to having a town with one cinema showing nothing but Arnold Schwarzeneggar action films and one cinema showing high-art, foreign language movies, with nobody catering for the quality, accessible product such as **Silence of the Lambs, Dances With Wolves** etc. Maybe we need the European influence of good story-telling and conventional illustrations to come to the fore a bit more before we see a rapid increase in wider public interest.

Mind you, I have to agree that a whittling-down of the superhero share of the market wouldn't go amiss. I grew up on superheroes and still enjoy my ageing collection, but some of the trash being churned out now isn't doing comic-strip respectability any good whatsoever. Is **The Beano** really any more childish than **Overkill**? Going by quality thresholds alone, the former's strip-content is undoubtedly more professional than the latter. Food for thought...

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All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Where dollar and sterling prices (ie $1.50/£1) is stated, UK price is not the air-freighted import price, but instead denotes that the title will be nationally distributed approximately ten weeks later at a lower-than-airfreight price. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 80p.

Shipping dates given are usually one week before airfreight copies arrive with your retailer/mail order supplier. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Late shipping, cancellations and changes in content will be detailed in future issues of ***Comics International****.*

Key to abbreviations used:
1 & 2 + 3 = Writer & penciller + inker
sqbd = perfect bound; squared spine; without staples
b&w = black & white content
pc = part-colour content
hbk = hardback (book) edition
tpbk = trade paperback, squarebound, comic size
Xpg = number of interior pages
V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

SHIPPING: JULY 1993

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

☐ **Cerebus 172** (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers & Daughters Book 2 - Women: Part 22.* All points East, as the Ascension looms on the horizon. Plus *Mothers & Daughters 20*, in which Swoon is *still* having problems staying ahead of the game. b&w $2.25

AC COMICS

☐ **Femforce 63** (Black & Pollard + Heike) Femforce jets off to join Microman in California - and soon gets suckered into making a low rent remake of a 1950s classic horror movie. Things start to go wrong when Gargantua goes AWOL and kicks up a stink in LA. Plus *Rayda* a backup featuring the debut of a new Femforce teamster. Polybagged with Rayda trading card. ... $2.95
☐ **Jungle Girls 16** (Northey and Maglalang & Florence) *The Witch of the Ant-Lions*: The Wild Side confront a mystical witch; plus Golden Age reprints *Camilla* (Baker) and *Judy of the Jungle* (Saaf). b&w $2.95
☐ **Good Girl Art Quarterly Special: Sky Gal 1** (Gorby) First new Sky Gal work for over 45 years, focusing on Good Girl Ginger Maguire; plus four reprint Sky Girl stories with backing text. Polybagged with a Sky Girl trading card. $3.95

ARCHIE COMICS

☐ **Archie Andrews, Where Are You? Digest 89** $1.50
☐ **Archie's Double Digest 68** $2.50
☐ **Archie's Pals n Gals Dbl Dgst 2** $2.50
☐ **Archie's Story & Game Dgst 29** $1.50
☐ **Archie 416** $1.25
☐ **Betty & Veronica 69** $1.25
☐ **The Conservation Corps 3** $1.25
☐ **Jughead Jones Digest 84** $1.50
☐ **Jughead With Archie Dgst 117** . $1.50
☐ **Little Archie Digest 11** $1.50
☐ **Sonic the Hedgehog 4** $1.25
☐ **TMNT Adventures 50** $1.50
NEW ☐ **TMNT Presents: Merdude & Michaelangelo 1** (of 3) . $1.25
☐ **World of Archie 6** $1.25

CALIBER PRESS

☐ **Berserker 3** (of 5; Gauntlet; Carlson & Adams) While the council muses on what his fate should be, Berserker dodges the fallout in a confrontation with Melt Down. Plus backing strip, *Dr Weird* (DeGeorge & Van Breisen). Cover: Reed. b&w $2.95
☐ **Deadworld Volume 2 #5** (Thayer & Nixey + Showman) King Zombie has achieved his long desired goal: the opening of the gates to the netherworld... b&w $2.95
☐ **Deadworld: To Kill a King 2** (of 3; Garrett & McCain) Rescheduled. Dead-Killer - unsurprisingly the slaughterer of the undead - is taken prisoner by the vengeance-driven new King of the Zombies. b&w $2.95
☐ **El Gato** (Iconografix; Aushenker) Single issue book featuring a Mexican wrestler-cum crime fighter, motivated by the promise of one day becoming Vice President of the US. b&w 48pg $3.50
NEW ☐ **Joe Sinn 1** (Finley & Hagen) Rescheduled. First of this ongoing cyberpunk series introduces mercenary Joe Sinn, who is persuaded to join a video pirate and a gene-splice victim in pursuit of their particular brand of justice. Available in regular and deluxe editions. Mature readers. b&w ..... $2.95/$5.95
NEW ☐ **Negative Burn 1** (various) First of an ongoing anthology series features: *Mr Mamoulian* (Bolland); *Flaming Carrot* (Burden); *Matrix* (C Moore & Green); *Apparition* (Pruett & Massengill); *Deadaim* (Goetz & Hunter); plus a prelude to the **Kilroy** series (Pruett & Burwell). With flip Kilroy/Matrix cover. b&w $2.95
NEW ☐ **Nightlinger 1** (Gauntlet; Jones & Baroza) New ongoing series revolving around the chivalrous, pulp style hero whose mission it is to protect citizens from street crime and supernatural evil. b&w $2.95
☐ **Paradigm 4** (Gauntlet; Carpenter & Jeanty + Pharms) Predator, Matrix and Tekq get the worst of a battle with Armageddon - fought against the backdrop of the now fullblown InterCorp-QualeCowar. Elsewhere, Army's secret identity is revealed. .. $2.95
☐ **The Realm 4** (Truax & Bendis + Marquez) Recounting the events of the Orc War, more about the Redeemer and the fates of the characters scattered far and wide by the Daemonstorm. b&w $2.95
☐ **Skin-Graft 2** (Iconografix; Fischer, Syers, Nitsche and Bentle) Continuing anthology series, featuring: *Commander Floyd* (Fischer) and *As the Crow Flies* (Nitsche). Mature readers. b&w $3.50
☐ **Tekq** (tpbk; Gauntlet; Carpenter and Pharms) Collects the four issue series. Wraparound cover: Bradford. b&w . $12.95
NEW ☐ **Twilight People 1** (Ricketts) Ongoing series about two dead runaways who land in Hell - just in time for the opening hunt of the season for the hounds of Hell... b&w $2.95
☐ **UN Force Files 3** (Gauntlet; various) Continuing anthology featuring solo stories, featuring *Polar Disaster* (McTyre) and *Gain and Loss* (Swint & Jenaty). $2.95
☐ **UN Force 7** (Gauntlet; Carpenter & Kowalski + Round) *Critical Mass 3* (of 3): The Force is called in to prevent a nuclear disaster and news isn't so good on the home front: one of the team contracts the HIV virus. $2.95

COMICO

☐ **Elementals 30A & B - Oblivion War Memorial Edition** (Herman & Daniel) Available in two editions: Edition A: Concludes the *Oblivion War* storyline, with 16 additional pages of pinups and *The Oblivion War Body Count*. Prestige format, with foil cover logo. 48pg Edition B: regular issue, concludes *Oblivion War*. .... $4.95/$2.50
☐ **Ratman: Dark Circle 3** (of 4; Willingham & Herman + McQuain) Ratman fights Ratbaggers in the limbo of Kingdom Come. Features guest appearance by the Elementals team. Cover: Mychaels. . $2.50
☐ **Vortex 4** (of 4; Mann & Butler) Rescheduled. Concluding issue of this mini-series sees Vortex - having been transmuted into the Great Wind Spirit during his fight with the Choctaw Indian shaman - attempting to rediscover his lost humanity. $2.50

CONTINUITY

☐ **Armor 4 (1993)** (Stone & Velluto + Barras) *Rise of Magic:* tie-in. Armour "rescues" a woman from New York's dockland - and is promptly forced to deal with undersea demons from Atlantis claiming his protege as their own. $2.50
☐ **Bucky O'Hare Volume 2 #1** (Stone & Coates + J Adams) Rescheduled. More comic adventures with O'Hare and Co. Cover: Neal Adams. Polybagged with **Bucky O'Hare Volume 1 #6**. 48pg $3.25
☐ **Crazyman Volume 2 #1** (Adams & Stone, Barry + Bennett) Homage to *The Prisoner* TV series. Danny Brody seems set at last to uncover the secret of the Village - when he is captured during a bid to free #6. ..... $2.50
☐ **Cyberrad Volume 2 #2** (Stone & Adams + Bennett) Rescheduled. Pre-*Deathwatch 200* storyline continues, with Cyberrad's escape from his creator and subsequent confrontation with a myriad threats - and his girlfriend held to ransom... Wraparound, acetate cel overlay cover. $2.50
☐ **Earth 4 Volume 3 #1** (Stone & McDaniels + N Adams) Focusing on Urth's battle with new villain, The Mercenary. Polybagged with embossed, *sandpaper* cover. $2.50
☐ **Hybrids Volume 2 #1** (Stone & Wiesenfeld) No storyline information at time of going to press. Polybagged with "magic dust" Gymcrack cover. $2.50
☐ **Hybrids: The Origin! 2** (Stone & Stroman, Buckler + Klasic) Rescheduled. Concluding the **Revengers/Hybrid Special 1** story (1992), with the pre-*Deathwatch 2000* Hybrid's bid to eradicate Megalith. Trompe d'oeil enhanced cover. $2.50
☐ **Megalith 4 (1993)** (Adams & Stone, Infante + Barras) *Rise of Magic* tie-in: *Everyone Has a Dark Side...* Megalith has a near terminal encounter with a pack of werewolves - but the pack's monster is after Megalith's blood - or more specifically, body. "Demon-enhanced" cover: Infante. . $2.50
☐ **Ms Mystic Volume 3 #1** (Stone & Turner + Adams) Brutal actioner sees the beginning of the revelation of the true identity of Ms Mystic - and how her vow never to kill is broken... Cover: Infante and Adams. $2.50
☐ **Samuree Volume 2 #1** (Stone & Schane + Nebres) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Return of the sexy Mistress of the Martial Arts sees Samuree battling with the "demonic force" flooding through the streets of New York City. Embossed cover: Beachum. .. $2.50
☐ **Valeria, the She-Bat 3** (Adams and McFarlane) Co-produced by Neal Adams and Image's Todd McFarlane, featuring a guest appearance by Spawn. Gatefold cover: Adams and McFarlane. Foil wrapped. $2.50

DARK HORSE

NEW ☐ **Comics' Greatest World** Weeks 5-8 of 16 issues, each introducing a new character in the Dark Horse super-hero Universe. *See US News, this issue.*
☐ **Golden City - Week One: Rebel** (Kesel & Hamilton + Martin) Introducing the "strong, quick, agile and flashy" Rebel, who is called upon to prove his entitlement to superherodom by the appearance of hard-boiled villain, Warmaker. Cover: Ordway. 16pg (Shipping July 13) $1.00
☐ **Golden City - Week Two: Mecha** (Kesel & Wojtkiewicz + Lowe) Alien technology-armoured Mecha takes on the challenge of Warmaker - and discovers that his armour has powers of its own... Cover: Johnson and Story. 16pg (Shipping July 20.) $1.00
☐ **Golden City - Week Three: Titan** (Kesel & Apthorp + Palmiotti) Introducing the super-powered grunt, Titan, with the speed to evade flying bullets (and fortunately, the missiles launched from Warmaker's skin surface!). Cover: Walt Simonson. 16pg (Shipping July 27) $1.00
☐ **Golden City - Week Four: Catalyst** (Kesel & Duursema, Willis + Magyar) The advent of the city's near destruction at the hands of Warmaker introduces superheroine Grace and her team, Catalyst. But it seems that Warmaker's arrival may have been part of Grace's private agenda to bring her team into play... Cover: Perez. 16pg (Shipping August 3) $1.00

SHIPPING JULY 13TH

☐ **Accident Man 3** (of 3; Mills & Skinner + Mighten) Mike Fallon undertakes his most difficult mission yet - to infiltrate the Mafia and kill the Godfather... Mature readers. Cover: Chaykin. $2.50
NEW ☐ **Aliens vs Predator: The Deadliest of the Species 1** (of 12; Claremont & Guice + Beatty) Corporate trophy consort Caryn Delacroix is haunted by nightmares of death - which, as she discovers - are prescient of a Predator's arrival. Cover: Bolton. $2.95
☐ **American Splendour 17** (anthology) First Dark Horse issue of Harvey Pekar's award-winning magazine, featuring work by Dumm, Mavrides, Sacco, Shamray, Sobocinkski, Stack, Stats, Wald, Woodring and Zabel. Mature readers. b&w 56pg $4.95
☐ **Cheval Noir 44** (anthology) Featuring: *Suburban Nightmares: Secrets, Part 3* (of 5; Hancock & Cherkas + Van Bruggen); *Post Apocalypse* (Elliot & Thatcher); *Sylvia* (Hollander); *Demon* (Tanaka); Classics Desecrated's *The Wolf Who Cried Sheep!* (Wheeler & Medley) and *Great Bend* (Geary). Mature readers. b&w $2.95
☐ **Dark Horse Presents 76** (anthology) Featuring: *When Immortals Meet* (Campbell); *The Chairman* (C Moore & Robinson) and *The Madwoman of the Sacred Heart* (Jodorowsky & Moebius). Cover: Campbell.

Mature readers. b&w $2.25
☐ **Dirty Pair: Sim Hell 3** (of 4; Warren) Kei and Yuri redouble their efforts when they discover that they're being manipulated by mysterious cyber-power brokers. Cover: Warren. b&w $2.50
☐ **John Byrne's Next Men 16** (Byrne and Webb) When Dollar Comics' give the Next Men new names, costumes and personalities, Sheriff Coffey suddenly recognises the kids who ran amok through his town. And in a John Byrne Universe storyline, Donna Wojciechowski - from Byrne's novel **Whipping Boy** - is dispatched by her Chicago newspaper to do an in-depth story about the Next Men team. Mature readers. $2.50
☐ **Propellerman** 4 (of 8; Schultheiss) The dizzy hero is pursued by the Manipulator's army in a high-propelled chase sequence. Even numbered issues include two bound-in trading cards. Mature readers. $2.95
☐ **The Venus Wars II #14** (Yasuhiko) Fleeing Rado's coup, Matthew is stopped at a checkpoint manned by his old unit, the Elite - and joins up with them to lead a counter-coup and the beginning of the final battle with Rado himself. Cover: Dave Johnson and Brian Stelfreeze. b&w . $2.50

SHIPPING JULY 20TH

☐ **Caravan Kidd Part 2 #3** (Manabe) Mian Toris's heart is in her mouth as she risks the Empress Shion discovering her identity in the course of a wrestling match... Cover: Manabe. b&w 40pg $2.95
NEW ☐ **The Eudemon** 1 (Nelson) First of an ongoing series for a character originated in **Dark Horse Presents**. Reluctant hero Ed Pensa finds himself in an alternative dimension faced with hordes of demons - his only aide a seven-foot, purple devil called Eudemon. And all because he helped a dame in trouble. $2.50
☐ **Grendel: Devil by the Deed** (Wagner & Rankin) Recoloured edition of the Comico 1988 birth of the original Grendel, Hunter Rose. Plus pin-up gallery. Deluxe format. 48pg $3.95
☐ **Hard Looks 9** (adaptation: Prosser) Derived from short stories by Andrew Vachss: *Joy Ride* (art: O'Barr) and *Cain* (art: Watkiss). Plus reprint *Placebo* (Vachss & Janson) and Vachss' new story, *Stone Magic*. Mature readers. b&w $2.95
☐ **Robocop 3 #1** (of 3; Grant & Nguyen + Nichols) Rescheduled. Robocop is faced with the OCP's latest hi-tech Japanese weapon in the fight for Old Detroit. $2.50
☐ **Tank Girl II #2** (of 4; Martin & Hewlett) Woman with attitood Tank Girl and Kanga Booga shatter the quietude and the citizens of Titting Coombesbury when they go visit the family. Mature readers. b&w ... $2.50
☐ **Version 1.8** (Sakaguchi) Concluding issue in the *Part One* storyline sees Hap and Eiko cruising the barrier reef off Australia while the world pauses on the brink of a tidal flood disaster - engineered by the sentient biochip, EGOS. b&w $2.50

SHIPPING JULY 27TH

☐ **Aliens: Rogue** 4 (of 4; Edginton & Simpson) Professor Kleist's genetically engineered Alien King comes home to roost, tearing Charon Base apart - and finding the captive Alien Queen. $2.50
☐ **Dark Horse Comics** 11 (anthology) Featuring: *Godzilla: Blast From the Past, Part 2* (Stradley & Rubio + Garvey); *Predator: The Pride at Nghasa, Part 2* (Dixon & Alcatena); *James Bon: Light of My Death, Part 4* (Petrou & Watkiss) and *Aliens: Taste* (Martin III & Nelson). Cover: Art Adams. .. $2.50
☐ **Orion 6** (of 6; Shirow) Seska and the god of expansion, Susano, go head to spongy tissue in this concluding issue of the series. b&w 48pg $3.95

SHIPPING AUGUST 3RD

☐ **Classic Star Wars 11** (Goodwin & Williamson + Nunis) Luke confronts Darth Vader at the foot of the Iron Tower on Aridus. Elsewhere, the Rebels set their plan to destroy Vader's ship in motion - and everything depends on the complicity of the pirates of Iridium. $2.50

DC COMICS

SHIPPING JULY 13TH

☐ **Action Comics Annual 5** (Loeb & Moder) *Bloodlines, Wave Two: Earth Plague, Part 11* (of 23). Psychopath Loose Cannon comes to life as extraterrestrial parasites invade a suicidal man. While Cannon wreaks havoc, it's up to Superman to pick up the pieces and persuade the bad-tempered creature to help avert global disaster at the hands of the aliens. Continues in **Legion of Super-Heroes Annual 4**. 64pg $2.50
☐ **Batman 499** (Moench & Aparo + Hanna) *Knightfall: Part 18* (of 22). While investigating the kidnapping of Shondra Kinsolving and Jack Drake, Wayne discovers a stowaway on his jet - and it's no other than Catwoman... Continues in **Detective Comics 666**. Cover: Jones. $1.25
☐ **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 50** (O'Neil & Blevins) Double sized issue, recounting Batman's first meeting with the Clown Prince of Crime (aka The Joker) early in his career. Also includes a pinup gallery with contributions from Chaykin, Kaluta, Lee, Schultz and Zeck. Foil-enhanced cover. 64pg $3.95
NEW ☐ **Black Orchid** 1 (Vertigo; Foreman & J Thompson + Woch) First of a new series revolving around the life of the enigmatic shape-shifter. This issue, an investigative reporter delves into her background, unwittingly risking his life - and hers - in the process... Cover: McKean. Mature readers. $1.95
☐ **Chain Gang War 3** (Wagner & Grant, D Johnson + Dell) While Curtis and the Animal use their time honoured method to settle an argument (a chainsaw), disaster looms for the Gang as Deathstroke the Terminator is hired to - well, *terminate* them. $1.75
☐ **Deathstroke, The Terminator 28** (Wolfman & Erwin + Blyberg) *Deathstroke's World Tour: Part 2* (of 7). Slade, Wintergreen and Amanda Waller's pursuit of the abducted Deathstroke's wife leads them from Germany to Hong Kong. Cover: Mike Zeck. . $1.75
☐ **Flash 80** (Waid & Wieringo + Marzan, Jr) Flash's former girlfriend Frances Kane - aka Magenta - holds Keystone City hostage....In regular and collector's editions, the latter with a foil-enhanced cover. ..... $1.25/$2.50
☐ **Green Lantern: Mosaic 16** (G Jones & McDonnell) Hal Jordan leads Flash, Guy Gardner, Power Girl and Martian Manhunter touch down on Mosaic to retrieve the captive cities from John Stewart and the Guardians. But there's a revelation in store for Green Lantern with the discovery that his wife, Katma Tui, is alive.. ..... $1.25
☐ **Hardware 7** (Milestone; McDuffie & Cowan) Hardware's most horrific nightmare comes to life, marking the advent of a shocking transformation of the hero. $1.50
☐ **Jonah Hex: Two-Gun Mojo 2** (of 5; Vertigo; Lansdale & Truman + Glanzman) Jonah Hex is found guilty by the Mud Creek rednecks of a hanging offence; only problem is, they've got the wrong man - the real perpetrator is Mojo's zombie... Cover: Truman. Mature readers. $2.95
☐ **Justice League International Quarterly 12** (Waid & Rodriguez + Branch) While the Leaguers are out of town, an old enemy returns to Manhattan - and it's down to the unfortunately named New Conglomerate to put a stop to his antics there. Backing story

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(by Friedman & Mathew + D Davis) has Praxis facing a redoubtable conundrum: whether to let the serial killing sorcerer continue his slaughter of the innocents, or to use his dread magic to stop him. Plus short story *On the Road* (Fryer & Wieringo + Christian), featuring Dr Light and Ice playing Jack Kerouac and lawyer. 80pg $3.50

☐ **Legionnaires 6** (of 6; T & M Bierbaum & Sprouse + Story) Concluding issue, which opens with the battle proper sparked off in Capitol Plaza on New Earth and the Legionnaire's last desperate bid for victory. Backing story *An Eye For an Eye* features a royal slugfest, in which the two Emerald Empresses face each other for the final reckoning. $1.25

☐ **Sandman Mystery Theatre 6** (Vertigo; M Wagner & Watkiss) *The Face, Part 2* (of 4). While the Golden Age Sandman hotly pursues the Face - who's still intent on his gorefest - the Tong leaders set about wreaking vengeance.. Cover: Wilson. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Shade, the Changing Man 39** (Vertigo; Milligan & Bachalo + Bryant) *Pond Life:* Shade languishes a sub-aquatic world and muses on his misadventures. Kathy and Lenny go in for a little light relief, meanwhile, with a tutorial on creative writing. Cover: Chris Bachalo. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **The Spectre 10** (Ostrander & Mandrake) The Spectre comes to the realisation that serial killer The Reaver isn't going to fall into his trap - and sets off anew to hunt him down. His first interviewee is the killer's last victim; his first port of call, Heaven. Cover: Kaluta. $1.75

☐ **Star Trek 52** (Duane & Whigham + Starr) *Epic Proportion:* When they make their first contact with an alien race, Kirk, Spock and McCoy discover that the Klingons were there before them - and with no Prime Directive to inhibit their relationship, there could be problems in store for everyone. $1.75

☐ **Superman: The Man of Steel 25** (L Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) *Reign of the Supermen: Part 14.* The conundrum of who the real Superman is seems set to run and run as, this issue, John Henry confronts an opponent clad in a vintage Kryptonian battlesuit. Continues in **Superman 81**.$1.50

☐ **Valor 11** (Waid & Moore + Sellers) Valor races time to reach Oa before the powder keg of the dying Green Lantern's powers is released and ignites... 30th century backing story, *The Legend of Valor* features guest appearances by the Legionnaires. Cover: Hughes. $1.25

☐ **Wonder Woman 78** (Messner-Loebs & Moder + Parks) Hyper-assassin the Mayfly hunts down Diana, who's babysitting Etta's anorexia. Cover: Botland. $1.25

SHIPPING JULY 20TH

☐ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 16** (A Grant & Blevins + Manley) *The God of Fear: Part 1* (of 3). In this *Knightfall* tie-in issue, the Scarecrow girds his loins for a fear attack on Gotham City. Anarchy, in the meantime, escapes from juve detention and sets about planning his revenge on Batman. Cover: Stelfreeze. $1.75

☐ **Black Canary 9** (Byam & Von Eeden + B Smith) The Huntress and Black Canary team up for an investigation into the disappearance of several top female executives - which doesn't describe Dinah Prince - but doesn't stop her being targeted, either. $1.75

☐ **The Demon 39** (Grant & Hedden + McWeeney) In this final issue of the series for writer Alan Grant, with Harry's soul back in its rightful place, Etrigan - with the aid of guest demon Lobo - is free for a devilishly hot toe-to-toe with the power tripping Merlin. Writer Garth (**Hellblazer**) Ennis takes over next issue. $1.75

☐ **Eclipso 11** (Fleming & Newman + Kryssing) *Shadow Fighters:* Bruce Gordon and Mona head up the new Amanda Waller super-team designed to stop Eclipso in his tracks. The Creeper, Peacemaker, Mark Shaw Manhunter, Nemesis, Dr Midnight, Wildcat, Commander Steel and Major Victory tool up - with hardware designed by Dr Bennett, Chunk and Doc Magnus - for their first mission: to rescue a drugs dealer's daughter from Parador. Little do they know that that road leads to death and madness for superheroes. $1.25

☐ **Green Lantern Corps Quarterly 6** (various) Focusing on the women of the cadre, with the introduction of ninja Laira in *What Price Honour?* (Diaz & Travest, Charest + R McCarthy); *Bodikka* (G Jones & Kolins + Kryssing); the lone female teamster with a difference (Baron, Truog & K DeMulder) and the new Harlequin's real life story (Marz & Balent + Pepoy). Plus pinups by Hughes and Phillips, featuring Katma Tui. Cover: Balent. 64pg $2.95

☐ **Green Lantern 45** (G Jones & Ha + Tanghal) *Trinity, Part 5:* Hal Jordan, in the midst of the Green Lantern Corps' battle with The Darkstars, is devastated to discover a former Corps member working for the opposition... Elsewhere, Vril Dox enters the billion-year-old tombs of Maltus and awakes a big sleeper. Plus straws in the wind about Green Lantern's home city's link with events in the *Reign of the Supermen* storyline. Continues in **L.E.G.I.O.N. '93 #58.** . $1.25

NEW ☐ **Hawkman 1** (Ostrander & Duursema + Magyar) First of a new ongoing series sees the newly costumed Hawkman's return, seven months after the disappearance of Katar Hol and Shayera. But he's keeping his identity under wraps and the whole of Chicago guessing - that is, until the Netherworlders are assaulted by super-powered hitman, Deadline... Foil-enhanced cover: Jan Duursema. .. $2.50

☐ **Hellblazer 69** (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) John Constantine's out of house and home - and out of luck. Just the very worst time to be tormented by the King of the Vampires. Cover: Glenn Fabry. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Icon 5** (Milestone; McDuffie & Bright + Gustovich) Icon takes on the super-powered Paris Island homeboys; features a guest appearance by the Blood Syndicate. Elsewhere, Rocket has a word or two to say to the father of her unborn child. ... $1.50

☐ **Justice League America 80** (Vado & West + Burchett) The JLA come into conflict with the government - and a team of superheroes led by an ex-Leaguer - while rescuing the beseiged crew of a crashed spaceship. $1.25

☐ **Justice League International 54** (G Jones & Jacobs + Randall) The League members' uncharacteristic behaviour (knitting in front of the TV?) arouses suspicions that they have been supplanted by clones. $1.25

☐ **Kid Eternity 5** (Vertigo; A Nocenti & S Phillips) Dead Neal Casady and the Kid join forces for a fearsome battle in the eye of the horror vortex. $1.95

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes Annual 4** (T & M Bierbaum & Boyd) *Bloodlines, Wave Two; Earth Plague Part 12* (of 23). Brainiac 5 (as ever a few stairs short of the attic) inadvertently transports the parasite Angon (and host, surfer Jamm) to the 30th century. Timber Wolf - whom Brainiac was supposed to rescue from the 20th century - teams up with the hapless hero to snuff out the parasite - but are left with Jamm, who now wants more than a good swell; what he wants is global domination, and he starts with taking Valor, Tasmia Mallor and Ludda Krinn as his personal slaves... Continues in **Green Arrow Annual 6**. 64pg $3.50

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 47** (T & M Bierbaum & Immonen + Boyd) *Mordru*

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Arises, Part 5 (of 6). Mordu has dragged up more dead villains - Nemesis Kid, Dr Regulus, Jungle King, Zaryan the Conquerer, Charma and the Dominator - as a vanguard for his final assault on the Legion. . $1.75

☐ **The New Titans 101** (Wolfman & Jaaska + Vey) Nightwing and Starfire's disastrous wedding changes the team permanently, with the couple leaving the New Titans and Arsenal - formerly Speedy - taking on the role of team leader. Cover: Jaaska and Vey. $1.75

☐ **Ragman: Cry of the Dead 2** (of 6; E Lee & G Morrisette) Revenge is the leit-motive of the afterlife, with the rags claiming their pound of flesh from a mother who murdered her child and the goddess Marinette's bloody reign fresh victims from the streets of New Orleans. Cover by **Ragman** creator Joe Kubert. Mature readers. $1.75

☐ **Sandman 53** (Vertigo; Gaiman & Talbot, Zulli + Buckingham) Another self-contained story, with framing sequence artwork by guest artist Brian Talbot. Features the return of an old friend of Morpheus - who refused to die Hob Gadling, in a sea-faring adventure. Cover: Dave McKean. Mature readers.$1.95

☐ **Superman 81** (Jurgens & Breeding) *Reign of the Supermen, Part 15:* The cyborg Superman's past is unveiled when Mongul menaces Metropolis. Continues in **Adventures of Superman 504**. . . . $1.50

☐ **Zatanna 3** (of 4; Marrs & Maroto) When the Xaos penetrates Earth's reality, Zatanna finds herself engaged on a battle on two fronts - with her mother's spirit *and* the end of the world to deal with, the heroine has a fight on her hands for which her stiletto boots will be almost entirely redundant. . . $1.95

SHIPPING JULY 27TH

☐ **Adventures of Superman 504** (Kesel & Grummett + Hazelwood) *Reign of the Supermen: Part 16.* With the saga of the who the Last Son of Krypton is now as a chorus, Superman, Superboy and the Man of Steel brave Kryptonite radiation (somewhat rashly, in Superboy's case) to attack Mongul's command centre. Continues in **Action Comics 691**. $1.50

☐ **Animal Man 63** (Vertigo; Delano & Pugh) Self-contained story, in which Buddy struggles with the desire to abandon his human self to the Leviathan. Cover: Brian Bolland. Mature readers.. . . . . $1.95

☐ **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 51** (Fleming & Klein) The pursuit of a hitman with Olympian athleticism takes Batman to New Orleans, and a meeting with the soul-thief, Ragman. $1.75

☐ **The Blood Syndicate 6** (Milestone; Velez, Jr, & Chriscross) Mad and bad John Wing proves more than dangerous to know - as the Blood Syndicate discover when Demon Fox is set on their trail. Elsewhere, Wise Son gets a lesson in leadership from Third Rail - and the aftermath of the Big Bang appears in the water. $1.50

☐ **Detective Comics 666** (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) *Knightfall: Part 20* (of 22). Azrael disobeys Batman's prime directive when, looking for a shortcut to Bane, he springs the villain's cohorts Trogg, Zombie and Bird from jail. Concludes in **Batman 500**. . . . $1.25

☐ **Flash 816** (Waid & Wieringo + Marzan, Jr) Flash enlists ex-New Titans Nightwing and Starfire to add weight to his desperate attack on the Combine mob - now consolidating its position in Keystone and Central Cities. $2.50

☐ **Green Arrow Annual 6** (Grell & M Collins + Hotchkiss) *Bloodlines, Wave Two: Earth Plague, Part 13* (of 23). A 'Nam vet's steamy session with a beautiful woman turns sour when he discovers that he's just made out with an alien parasite... But the scenario's got its up side - he's now the 22-year-old superpowered Hook, and the key to Green Arrow's discovery of what's happening in the city. Continues in **Detective Comics Annual 6**. 64pg $3.50

☐ **Justice League Task Force 4** (Dixon & Morrisette + Giordano) With Hannibal refusing to do anything about the martial arts cult connected with the disappearance of young New Yorkers, Gypsy decides to go it alone - but doesn't know that Martial Manhunter is of the same mind and shadowing her. $1.25

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '93 #58** (Waid & Kitson + Stokes) *Trinity, Part 6:* The L.E.G.I.O.N. space armada carries out a huge - and successful bid to free the Darkstars from the Green Lantern Corps. Features a guest appearance by Lobo, in a romantic interlude with Green Lantern teamster Bodikka. Continues in **Darkstars 12**. $1.75

☐ **Lobo's Back** (tpbk; Giffen & Grant, Bisley & Alamy) Collects the reincarnated Main Man's series. Cover: Glenn Fabry. Mature readers. 112pg $9.95

☐ **Lobo: UnAmerican Gladiators 4** (of 4; Grant & J Wagner + Kennedy) *Main Game:* Conclusion. Lobo's back - yet again - from the dead, and steamin' to get his hands on Johnny Caesar who, so Lobo's discovered, set him up for a fall in the games right from the start. Cover: Mignola. $1.75

☐ **Metamorpho 2** (of 4; Waid & Nolan + Boyd) The Element Man's search for a cure to his son's condition leads to Ireland - where he is taken prisoner by the IRA. Elsewhere, Metamorpho is born and a key player in his life story dies. $1.50

☐ **Showcase '93 9** (of 12; anthology) Featuring: *The Huntress, Part 1* (of 2; Moench & Willingham + Austin); *The Kobra Kronicles, Part 4* (Baron & Barker + Marzan, Jr) and *Shining Knight* (Robinson & Mayhew + Gil). Cover: Chaykin. 48pg $1.95

☐ **Skin Graft 3: The Adventures of a Tattooed Man** (of 4; Prosser & Pleece) Leaving the police to search for the serial killer (what other sort is there, these days?) Oakes and Yuko fly to Japan, and the master tattooist's account of the Irezumi legend. Cover: Gavin Wilson. Mature readers. $1.75

☐ **Swamp Thing 135** (Vertigo; Collins & Eaton + DeMulder) Swamp Thing and Abbey both seek out new partners. Elsewhere, Arcane develops new Un-Men. Featuring a guest appearance by John (**Hellblazer**) Constantine. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Star Trek: The Next Generation 50** (Friedman & Krause + Marcos) *The Worst of Both Worlds, Part 4* (of 4). Double sized issue. Captain Picard races the intergalactic clock in a bid to liberate any remaining shred of humanity in Locutus before the Borg destroy Earth's few survivors. 64pg . $3.50

☐ **Team Titans 12** (Wolfman & Jiminez + Blyberg) *Phantom of the Opera* tribute concludes with Battalion paying a high price to gain the sympathies of his 1993 "wife". Meanwhile the team take stock after their confrontation with Deathwing. $1.75

SHIPPING AUGUST 3RD

☐ **Action Comics 691** (Stern & Guice + Rodier) *Reign of the Supermen: Part 17.* The Last Son of Krypton steams into battle at Mongul's Engine City. Elsewhere, the Boy of Steel's fate is revealed. Continues in **Superman: The Man of Steel 26**. . . $1.50

☐ **The Batman Adventures 12** (adaptation: Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Derived from the TV animated series. A distinctly diverse Gotham's Ladies' Night kicks off when Catwoman, Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy all gatecrash the same party; the claws come out when Batgirl steps in. $1.25

☐ **Batman: Birth of the Demon** (gn; ppbk; O'Neil & Breyfogle) Dennis O'Neil unveils the origin of his Batman nemesis, Ra's Al Ghul - as does the Dark Knight, although dying of radiation poisoning... The trail leads to a desert in the Middle East and Batman's final meeting with his most dangerous enemy. 112pg $12.95

☐ **Catwoman 2** (Duffy & Balent + Giordano) In the wake of events in the *Knightfall* saga, Catwoman sets off on a vengeance-driven mission to Santa Prisca, to search out Bane. But her worthy intentions soon change when she finds out that she's been led into a trap. Cover: Jim Balent. $1.50

☐ **The Darkstars 12** (Friedman & Byrd + Branch) *Trinity, Part 7:* The Green Lantern Corps and the Darkstars learn the secret of the Triarch - thanks to the intervention of Vril Dox. But whether the revelation has come soon enough, and is sufficient to unite all three super-teams is a moot point. Continues in **DC Universe: Trinity 2**. $1.75

☐ **Doom Patrol 70** (Vertigo; Pollack & Medley + Higgins) The extraordinary biology of the tackily named Coagula, newest Patroller, is attributed to a mysterious encounter with another member of the team way back in history. Elsewhere, George and Marion don their best band-aids for a night out on the tiles. Cover: Taggart. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Detective Comics Annual 6** (Dixon & Balent + G Fernandez) *Bloodlines, Wave Two: Earth Plague, Part 14* (of 23). Introducing Geist, the Twilight Man. Batman - who, it must be said, is feeling a little below parr - investigates a series of killings (all with the same MO), only to find that the murderer is one of the ubiquitous alien parasites. Continues in **Justice League America Annual 7**. 64pg $2.50

☐ **Green Arrow 78** (Grell & Hoberg + Nyberg) Green Arrow and assassin-for-hire Eddie Fyers get in the CIA's way when they capture a terrorist - and they discover to their cost that the CIA will stop at nothing to get what - or who - they want. Cover: Mike Grell. $1.75

NEW ☐ **The Golden Age 1** (of 4; Robinson & Smith) First of a new *Elseworld* revisionist mini-series. It's 1946 and, as the McCarthyite witch hunts loom on the horizon, the world's superheroes' future looks gloomy. For the most part retiring or hiding, some of the heroes adapt their images to comply with contemporary mores - just as a covert global conspiracy threatens world security... Prestige format, with foil-embossed logo. 48pg $4.95

☐ **Guy Gardner 12** (Dixon & Staton + T Beatty) *Guy Gardner: Year One, Part 2:* Guy Gardner's brush with the aliens leads to a bizarre series of events - and confrontations with Batman, Flash, Hal Jordan and Ice. But the aliens are still on board and, as they examine Gardner's psyche more minutely, they discover his Achilles' heel: the secret about his brother, Mace, that Gardner never revealed to their father. $1.25

☐ **Kamandi: At Earth's End 4** (of 6; Veitch & Gomez + Barreiro) Sleeper Zom and Kamandi traverse the US and encounter the apocraphal "legend" linked to the Second Apocalypse - an ancient Superman... Cover: Gomez. $1.75

☐ **Scarlett 9** (Joyner & Wilson + Morrow) Scarlett desperately battles her way out of the vampiric slugfest which has overtaken the city of the undead. $1.75

☐ **Static 4** (Milestone; McDuffie & Washington, Leon + Mitchell) Former Blood Syndicate member Holocaust enlists Static's aid for his dubious business activities. Elsewhere, Virgil finds out more than he's willing to cope with about Frieda's complex private life. $1.50

SHIPPING AUGUST 10TH

☐ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 17** (A Grant & Blevins) *The God of Fear: Part 2* (of 3). In a cross over with the *Knightfall* storyline, Scarecrow designates himself "The God of Fear" - and having done so, proceeds to put the frighteners on Gotham's gentle citizens. Elsewhere, Anarky devises a trap for Batman. Cover: Brian Stelfreeze. . . $1.75

☐ **DC Universe: Trinity 2** (of 2; G Jones & Friedman, Kitson, Stokes, Hanna + Kitson) The Triarch Controller throws everything into the balance, pitting his forces in a once and for all battle with the Green Lantern Corps, the Darkstars and L.E.G.I.O.N. With the Vril Dox, Hal Jordan and Ferrin Colos triumvirate at the helm, the three super-teams patch up their differences long enough to defeat the maniac gods... but then to the business of the division of territory in the DC Universe... Foil-enhanced cover: Kitson and Hanna. 48pg $2.95

☐ **Enigma 7** (of 8; Vertigo; Milligan & Fegredo) Michael Smith and the Enigma have a brief respite and find their lives transformed, albeit temporarily, as another manic villain - this time from the distant past - pops up his formidable head... Mature readers. $2.50

NEW ☐ **The Extremist 1** (of 4; Vertigo; Milligan & KcKeever) Billed as an "uncompromising erotic thriller", the first of this new mini-series opens on clubland, San Francisco. Chief protagonist is the Extremist, cognoscenti of a covert organisation known as The Order... Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Justice League America Annual 7** (Messner-Loebs & LaRoque) *Bloodlines, Wave Two: Earth Plague, Part 15* (of 23). Introducing new hero The Terrorsmith, created when the unsuspecting Jack Mosely wakes up from what he assumed was a nightmare about being attacked by aliens... But Jack's strangely changed, and can now strangely change others' bodies. Continues in **Adventures of Superman Annual 5**. 64pg $2.50

☐ **Justice League International 55** (G Jones & Jacobs, Randall + Elliot) The League find themselves in the middle of a bizarre scenario where, in a remote futuristic reality, they have to battle savages in order to protect their robotic masters... But with the power to control time as the prize, they might be forced to do almost anything. . . . $1.25

☐ **The Last One 3** (of 6; Vertigo; J M DeMatteis & Sweetman) Pat descends into another drug-induced coma, and depression descends on Myrwann as another trip into his past dredge up more skeletons in the brownstone building's closet. Mature readers. $2.50

NEW ☐ **Lobo Convention Special 1** (Giffen & Grant + K O'Neil) Lobo? Convention? Surely not - but yes, Lobo's a fanboy at heart (that'll do wonders for the readership), and when he sees that his **Superman** 75 (nm) has been damaged, he steams off to the nearest convention to beg, steal or *harrass* a copy from a virginal fan... Could do with a bit of Lobo input at UKCAC, really. $1.75

☐ **Sandman: A Game of You** (tpbk; Gaiman & McManus + various) Paperback edition of the collected **Sandman** 32-37 storyline. With additional art from Colleen Doran, George Pratt, Dick Giordano, Bryan Talbot and Stan Woch. Mature readers. 192pg $19.95

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

☐ **Palooka-Ville 3** (Seth) *Beaches: Conclusion:* Rescheduled. Final episode of a short-order cook's affair with his boss's wife. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.95

EC COMICS

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☐ **Tales From the Crypt 5** Featuring: *A Shocking Way to Die* (Feldstein); *Terror Ride* (Wood); *House of Horror* (Kurtzman) and *Death Suited Him* (Ingels). First published in January, 1951. . . . . $2.00

☐ **Shock Suspenstories 5** Featuring *Well Travelled* (Kamen); *Hate* (Wood); *What Fur?* (Orlando) and *Cold Cuts* (Davis). First published in October, 1952. . . . . $2.00

☐ **Weird Science 5** Featuring *Made of the*

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ECLIPSE COMICS

☐ **Clive Barker's Life of Death** (gn; Harper-Collins/Eclipse; adaptation: Burke & Stanyard) Death is manifest on Earth in the form of a young woman, Elaine - who was captured when, during the destruction of a church, she entered the newly exposed crypt... Plus *Murders in the Rue Morgue* (adaptation: Niles & Gomez). Mature readers. 96pg $9.99

☐ **Elvira 3** (Claypool Comics; edited by Richard Howell; Dini & Fry + Austin) Offbeat humour and horror with TV host Elvira plus back-up serial. b&w .. $2.50

☐ **Miracleman 24** (Gaiman & Buckingham) *Book Five: The Silver Age; When Titans Clash:* Rescheduled. Dickie Dauntless wakes up from his 20-year sleep - and discovers a world disturbingly different to the one he knows. Cover: Barry Windsor-Smith. $2.95

☐ **Phantom of Fear City 2** (Claypool Comics; Englehart & Haley + Nyberg) *Fear City Saga, Part 4:* Juup sees the end to any hope of an easy conquest of Sandy when there's a death in her family - and she hires an exorcist to get rid of him... Plus backing strip, *Incantation, Part 2: Phantom's Odyssey* continues; plus a preview of **Soul Searchers & Co.** (Peter David & Amanda Connor + Jim Mooney). b&w 32pgs. $2.50

☐ **Soulsearchers & Co 2** (Claypool Comics; P David & Conner + Mooney) *Fear City Saga, Part 5:* Soulsearchers & Co. undertake a European mission for the Fear City Witch, Tiger Hill. She's commissioned them to protect her gypsy tribe back in Pastamia - who are seemingly being persecuted by gigantic monsters... Plus a preview of **Deadbeats** (Howell & Villagran). b&w $2.50

☐ **True Crime Comics Presents 2: The Standoff at Waco** (Proctor & Robinson + Spiegle) Topical account of the recent headline-hitting confrontation between David Koresh's Branch Davidians sect and the Texas ATF. b&w $2.95

ETERNITY

☐ **Captain Harlock: The Machine People 3** (Gibson & Eldred) Cheerfully gallant Baron Darghund challenges Emil Cabal to a duel, in order to protect Earth from invasion by Cabal Corporation forces. Only one *slight* problem, a rapier can't stop a machine... b&w $2.50

☐ **Eternity Triple Action 5** (anthology) Featuring: *Gigantor* (Danko & Jang); *Earth Shark* (Waltrip) and *Dead Heat* (Howle & Cash). b&w $2.50

☐ **Ninja High School/Speed Racer 4** (Now/Eternity; Levine & Morita) Concluding issue. Jeremy and Speed agree to team up in the Mach V to win the Lendo 500 - but they've still got the Car Acrobatic Team to deal with - and the teamsters are looking ugly... Cover: Dunn. Includes free trading card. $2.95

☐ **Ninja High School in Colour 9** (Dunn) Continuing newly-coloured reprint series. Mita Celande gets hold of Howard, Mikey and Phrank and persuades them non too gently to volunteer for community service... Elsewhere, Dog Supreme and his no-face commandos have touched down on Earth for some light entertainment. $1.95

☐ **Robotech: Invid War 15** (Spangler & Eldred) In the aftermath of Jonathan Wolff's death, Scott Bernard's crew meet John Carpenter and Bekka Cade and they debate possible unification with Reflex Point in mind. b&w $2.50

☐ **Robotech: Return to Macross 5** (Spangler & Rahiman) Breetai despatches Khyron to investigate a seemingly deserted spaceship orbiting around a gas giant - and promptly loses contact with him. Meanwhile, Roy Fokker comes under suspicion of murdering Nadia - but the Knight of Knives soon puts paid to that with a cheery call claiming responsibility for her death. b&w $2.50

FANTACO

☐ **Night's Children: Vampyr 3** (of 4; Snow-Lang) During the war with Vlad the Impaler, Klaus and Dimi are captured by the Turk, Muyhiddin. While Klaus formulates a plan of vengeance against the Turk and the Romanian bigot, Prince Vlad discovers the gruesome consequences of his future treatment of prisoners in *The Education of a Prince, Part 3.* Mature readers. Magazine format. b&w .. $5.95

☐ **Twisted Men** (Dickinsin) One-shot horror story chronicling the exploits of a race of Hellspawn. Available in regular and deluxe editions. Prestige format. b&w 48pg ..... $5.95/$8.95

☐ **Zombie War: Earth Must Be Destroyed! 2** (of 4; Eastman & Skulan + Whiting) Jina, Spud and the assault team return from their away match in Hell to find their own assassinations being plotted back home. The new government have, in the meantime, decided how to use their zombie poison - and Spud's not in the game plan. Available in regular and deluxe editions, the latter with a gold foil-stamped cover. b&w 32pg ..... $2.95/$3.95

FANTAGRAPHICS

☐ **Cud 4** (LaBan) Featuring: *You Can't Spank the Monkey if He's on Your Back; The Primitives; Hippie Dad; The Pyramid of Vernon Dickson* and *the Circle Game.* Mature readers. b&w 28pg $2.50

☐ **Comics Journal 161** (consumer magazine) Featuring an interview with underground artist Robert Williams, plus regular news, columns, commentary and criticism. Magazine. $4.95

☐ **Duplex Planet Illustrated 3** (anthology) Featuring: *Planning and Completing an Explorative Trip to Planet Mars* (Leib); *The Death of a Salesman* (Zabel & Dunn); *Arthur Wallace* (Rohrer) and contributions from Hensley, Schafer, R L Crabb, Lutes and Wayno. Cover: J D King. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

☐ **Hate 13** (Bagge) *I Left My Stash in San Francisco:* Buddy finds out that erstwhile friend George Cecil Hamilton II has published a fanzine slandering him. After trying in vain to buy or steal every copy, Buds is forced to retaliate by publishing one of his own. Mature readers b&w$2.50

NEW ☐ **Crap 1** (J R Williams) Quarterly series based on the life of a houseful of oddballs, with backing story this issue: *Bad Boys.* Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

☐ **Love & Rockets Book 11: Wig Wam Bam** (tpbk; J Hernandez) Collects **Love & Rockets** 32-39; *Gonna Make You My Man.* Available in paperback, hardback and signed, deluxe editions. Mature readers b&w ..... $12.95/$35.00/$39.95

☐ **Love & Rockets 42** (Los Bros Hernandez) New quarterly schedule, introducing a format of shorter, self-contained stories. Features *Wig Wam Bam: Gonna Make You My Man; Easter Hunt; Farewell Palomar* and *Human Diastrophism.* Mature readers. Magazine format. b&w $2.95

☐ **Real Stuff 14** (Eichhorn & various)

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☐ **Zippy Quarterly 3** (Griffith) *Now it Can Be Told.* Collects 100 contemporary *Zippy* strips. Magazine. b&w 52pg $3.50

HARVEY

☐ **Casper 16** $1.25
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NEW ☐ **Pink Panther 1** First of a new quarterly series. . . $1.25
NEW ☐ **Popeye 1** First of a new series. $1.25
☐ **Richie Rich 16** $1.25
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☐ **Tom & Jerry 9** $1.25
NEW ☐ **Underdog 1** First of a new quarterly series. $1.25

IMAGE COMICS

☐ **Bloodstrike 4** (Liefeld, Giffen, Fraga + Miki) With Keith Giffen as plotter and layout artist. Bloodstrike's back on home territory in Washington DC. Elsewhere, Deadlock goes it alone. $1.95

☐ **Brigade 0** (Liefeld & Stephenson + Matsuda) One shot, chronicling events between **Youngblood 0** and the **Brigade** series, with the forming of the Brigade team and Battlestone's first meeting with Youngblood and Shaft. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Deathmate Black: WildC.A.T.S.-H.A.R.D.Corps 1** (Image/Valiant; Lee, Silvestri, Booth, Scott, Choi, Chiodo + Heisler) *Deathmate* cross-over continues from the preview in the first of this series. Ex-financier Jacob Marlowe, one of the most powerful leaders in the West, realises that all is not well in the world, and faces the conundrum of whether to send out Wildcore, a team of superhero enforcers, to stop Deathmate before the universe itself is destroyed. $4.95

NEW ☐ **Deathmate Red: Youngblood/Bloodshot 1** (Image /Valiant; Liefeld & Miki) Continued *Deathmate* crossover, with Prophet entering into a dangerous alliance with Chapel and Gilad the Eternal Warrior in a bid to defeat Youngblood. Featuring a plethora of guests from current Valiant titles. $4.95

☐ **Doom's IV 2** (Liefeld & Pacella) Burke makes preparations to dispatch his mutants on a search for the Doom's IV survivors. Elsewhere, Grimm's intent - seemingly - on unveiling events from his past. ... $1.95

☐ **The Maxx 5** (Kieth) More vigilante action. $1.95

☐ **Supreme 4** (Liefeld & Murray) Rescheduled. Supreme's run of good publicity is threatened by the arrival of Khrome - hot to trot on a new planet destruction programme, and using Supreme as his guide. $1.95

☐ **Savage Dragon 2** (Larsen) Reptilian battles commence as Savage Dragon confronts the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, in the first of a two-part storyline. Backing strip is a solo adventure featuring Star, plus a preview of **Vanguard** (Carlson & Coker + Sinclair). 48pg $2.95

☐ **Shaman's Tears 3** (Grell & Chiodo, Snoddy + Haynie) Shaman meets the all-powerful super-team at the secret Circle Sea complex - and comes off worse in the ensuing confrontation. Weakened by the battle, Shaman's only recourse is to team up with his crazed brother, Animus - who at present is intent on killing him. ... $1.95

☐ **Spawn 15** (McFarlane) Second of a two-part storyline, featuring a guest appearance by the Violator - who dreams of a past visit to Earth. $1.95

☐ **Stormwatch 4** (Lee, Choi, Chiodo, Booth + Heisler) Battalion and crew are resting up at SkyWatch - where Battalion's younger brother has just begun his training with veteran BackLash. $1.95

☐ **Trencher 3** (Giffen) Featuring Supreme, who, deciding that it's time to knock Gideon off his perch, embarks on a cataclysmic battle of the baldies. $1.95

☐ **Tribe 5** (Johnson) Features the Image Universe fashion show. $1.95

☐ **Union 2** (Heisler & Texeira) Union visits New York in a rights of passage mission in which, with the help of Jill, he faces the super-villain, The Quickness. $1.95

☐ **WILDC.A.T.S: Trilogy 2** (of 3; Lee & Wyn, Choi, Chiodo + Heisler) Zealot confronts her former Coda Sister colleague, Artemis. Elsewhere, there's more information on the secret history of the Coda and Calling. $1.95

☐ **1963 4 - Tales From Beyond** (A Moore & Bissette, Totleben, Valentino + Workman) More Silver Age revisited, featuring: *The Unbelievable Man* and *Johnny Beyond.* $1.95

INNOVATION

☐ **Beauty and the Beast** Adapted from the cult TV series. $2.50

☐ **Dark Shadows: Book Two 4** (of 4; M Thompson & Pimentel) The Grimm sister's Collinswood mystery is unravelled. Cover: Hector Gomez. $2.50

☐ **Dark Shadows: Old Friends** (tpbk; Campiti & Rockwell + E Smith) Collects the **Dark Shadows** series based on NBC's TV drama, with a 16-page feature on painter E Silas Smith's work. 116pg $9.95

☐ **Lost in Space: Arrival 2** (Mumy & Dutkiewicz) *Voyage to the Bottom of the Soul, Part Two:* More intergalactic adventures with the Robinson family. This issue, the family become guinea-pigs for a space/time experiment. Cover: Mike Deodato, Jr. $2.50

NEW ☐ **Mack Bolan: The Executioner 1** (D & L Pendleton & Florea + Deodato, Sr) Super-powered soldier Bolan undertakes a one-man vengeance driven mission to eradicate the Mafia - who were responsible for the destruction of his family. Available in three versions, with varying enhancements. Written by character's creator. ..... $2.95/$3.50/$3.95

☐ **Queen of the Damned 9** (of 12; F Perozich & O J Cariello) Akasha leads Lestat in a violent bid to enforce her reign on Earth. Plus backing strip, *The Queen of Heaven*, in which Maharet recounts the story of the twins. Bi-monthly. Mature readers. $2.50

☐ **Vigil: Kukulcan 1** (Loudermilk & Iverson) Vampire detective Grace Kimball prepares for final confrontation with vampires. Mature readers b&w 52pg$2.95

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☐ **Omaha the Cat Dancer 20** (Waller & Worley) Continuing series. Adult, N, S. b&w 32pg $2.95
☐ **The Spirit: The Origin Years 8** (Eisner) Collected chronological reprints of Eisner's pre WWII newsstrips. b&w $2.95

MALIBU

☐ **Dinosaurs For Hire 6** (Mason & Kirk + McCorkindale) *Dinosaurs That Go Bump in the Night:* Reese, Archie, Lorenzo and Cyrano investigate the ghostly appearances of the sexy ghost, Samantha - currently residing at a Manhattan luxury hotel. $2.50
☐ **Ex-Mutants 9** (Kanalz & Pelletier + Florimonte) Homage to the King Arthur legend. Only Dillon is capable of drawing the sword embedded in a stone that suddenly appears in Mutant Village - and his prize is a genie-like spirit, pledged to serve him in perpetuity. But there is a price to be paid. $1.95
NEW ☐ **The Ferret 3** (of 3; R A Jones & Zachary + Branch) While the Ferret's strength - sapped by the poison administered by Toxin - is gradually failing him, Toxin runs amok... Elsewhere, Midnite Blue uncovers an ominous secret about Colonel Weston. Available in news trade and direct editions, the latter with a free poster. ..... $1.95/$2.50
NEW ☐ **Gravestone 1** (Powell & Derenick + Branch) First of a three-issue series spin-off from **The Protectors**. Gravestone begins a perilous journey back to the the living after being slaughtered in battle by Wisecrack. $2.25
☐ **Man of War 4** (of 4; Mason & Danko + Chanasome) Back from his mission in Cuba, Man of War visits the doctor, little guessing that he is just the candidate the good physician has been waiting for to carry out some important research... Available in news trade and direct editions, the latter with free poster. .. $1.95/$2.50
☐ **The Mighty Magnor 4** (Aragones and Evanier) Magnor's weighed down with litigation this issue - and when the claims come in for the damage caused in his pursuit of justice, thinks get a little black. But not black enough to stop him confronting Professor Hugo Hyde. Elsewhere, Emperor Trepid launches an invasion on Earth. $1.95
☐ **The Protectors 11** (R A Jones & Derenick + Deodato) Miss Fury jets in with a plan to save President O'Brien's grandson from Black Fury - and the President promptly appoints her head of the team; which of course does nothing for the displaced Amazing Man's self esteem. Available in news trade and direct editions. ..... $1.95/$2.50
☐ **Street Fighter 3** (Strezewski & Hillsman + Whiting) The Protector's Ferret makes a guest appearance in a fight with Street Fighter E Honda, with a place on the team as the prize. Elsewhere, Ken seems to be dead and someone promptly steals his body! $2.25

MARVEL

SHIPPING JULY 6TH

☐ **The Airtight Garage 3** (of 4; Epic; Moebius) Serialisation of the previously published graphic novel. $2.95
☐ **Alien Legion: One Planet at a Time 3** (of 3; Dixon & Nguyen + Hanna) Concluding issue, in which Nomad Squadron, stranded in outer space, finds itself under attack from a rogue Legion commander. $4.95
☐ **Avengers West Coast 98** (Thomas & Ross + Dzon) Satannish offers Hangman the carrot of the command of the newly formed Lethal Legion if he will touch down on Earth and take USAgent out. . $1.25
☐ **Cable 5** (Nicieza & ?) Cable continues his investigation of the Tolliver secret. Meanwhile, Six Pack takes on the Executive Elite and Professor Xavier finds out that Cable has returned. $2.00
☐ **Cage 18** (McLaurin & Benefiel + Turner) *the Dark, Part 1* (of 3). Cage muses on the less agreeable aspects of his own character - namely the supernatural enemies that lurk within it. $1.25
☐ **Captain America 419** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) Features a guest appearance by Silver Sable, joins Cap in a bid to stop the corruption of the US via the TV networks. $1.25
NEW ☐ **Children of the Voyager 1** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Abadzis & Johnson) First of a four issue mini-series (and the first Frontier imprint product), introducing a wandering immortal who, by reading the bones of his "children" can share their consciousness and experiences - but then one of them steals his key to freedom, his exit from Earthly existence. Embossed, glow in the dark cover. $2.95
☐ **Daredevil 320** (Chichester & McDaniel + LaRosa) *Fall From Grace: Part 2* (of 7). Silver Sable and Daredevil pulverise each other into near oblivion before discovering that they have a common aim. $1.25
☐ **Darkhawk 31** (Fingeroth & A Williams + akin) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Rows break out on the way to do battle with the Goddess's minions, culminating in a ferocious slugfest... Features a guest appearance by the X-Men. Cover: Tod Smith. $1.25
☐ **Darkman 6** (of 6; Busiek & Saltares + Pepoy) Concluding issue sees the final encounter between Darkman, Durant and the Metropolitan Club. "Fanfare" format finale. $2.95
☐ **Death's Head II & Killpower:** ☐ **Battletide II 2** (of 4; Marvel UK; Abnett & Lanning + Senior) Death's Head, Tuck, Killpower and the Temploids face the formidable task of quelling the rage of guest star, the Hulk. $1.75
☐ **Excalibur Annual 1** (Skolnick & Marrinan + McKenna) Cerise stumbles on two refugees from another dimension: an elf, Khaos and seemingly harmless wizard, Ghath. Somehow, they persuade him to return with him to their dimension, where a terrible war rages - and he risks permanent exile by doing so. Includes free trading card, featuring Khaos. 64pg $2.95
☐ **Groo the Wanderer 104** (Epic; Aragones and Evanier) Groo tries to kill two birds with one stone, and mayhem inevitably results. $2.25
NEW ☐ **Immortalis 1** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Vince & Buckingham) The devil's got Mortigan Goth's soul, so there's little for him to do than seek an adventurous life... But when other immortals start disappearing, he realises that something is going awry. During his investigation, he meets Dr Strange - who asks him to help cure his brother's vampirism. Features a foil-stamped cover. $2.95
☐ **Killpower: The Early Years 2** (of 4; Marvel UK; Barr & Nocon) Features guest appearances from Codename: Genetix, whom Killpower encounters when dispatched into the past by the Time Guardian. $1.75
☐ **Marvel Comics Presents 136** (anthology) Featuring: *Wolverine & Cyber, Part 5* (of 6; Slott & Lightle); *Iron Fist* (Matias & Haynes + Albrecht); *Spider-Man* (Idleson & Jones) and *Ghost Rider & Cage, Part 6* (of 6; Bollers & Mendez). Cover: Lightle & Fry. $1.50
☐ **Namor 42** (Harras & McManus + Albrecht) A return to the soil for his final battle with Phoebe Marrs over the future of Oracle Inc leads to Namor finding out more about his human inheritance. $1.25
☐ **Nightstalkers 11** (Chichester & Van Wormer) In the aftermath of the *Midnight Massacre* saga, the team patch their wounds and remember how - and why - they got together. $1.75
☐ **Nomad 17** (Nicieza & Mays + Ivy) Bucky's mother is determined to get her child back - and trains with the Favor Banker to prepare for the assassination of her target - Nomad. Cover: Hawbaker $1.75
☐ **The Original Ghost Rider 15** (Isabella & Mooney + Abel) Reprints **Ghost Rider Volume 1 7**. $1.75
☐ **Punisher: Armory 7** (Brown) More peeks at the vigilante kid's hi-tech toys. Cover: Braithwaite. $2.00
NEW ☐ **Razorline: The First Cut** (various) Produced in conjunction with Clive Barker, this first of the new extra-Marvel Universe series previews four stories from the Razorline titles: **Hyperkind** [illegible]**okid, Hokum & Hex** and **Saint Sinn[illegible]** ludes an interview with Barker and a [illegible]ver artwork gallery for each book. $0.75
☐ **Ren & Stimpy 10** (Slott & Kazaleh) Derived from Nickelodeon's *Ren & Stimpy* animated TV series. Ren and Stimpy run amok in the woods when they're designated camp counsellors. Not a pretty sight. $1.75
☐ **Shadow Riders 4** (of 4; Marvel UK; Freeman & B Williamson + Dearsley) The Riders come under psychic fire from Ryan - and Porlock tries to block their wormhole exit. But then, guest Cable will doubtless come to the rescue. $1.75
☐ **She-Hulk 55** (Eury & Oliffe + DeCarlo) *To Live and Die in LA! Part 4* (of 6). Jennifer's unpredictable moods aren't helped at all by Wyatt being abducted - but there's a visit from her big green cousin in the offing. Cover: Tom Morgan. .. $1.75
☐ **Spider-Man Classics 6** (Lee & Ditko) Reprints **Amazing Spider-Man 5**. $1.25
☐ **Spider-Man 2099 11** (David & Leonardi & A Williamson) Miguel seems a little uncertain as to whether to come to the rescue of Tyler Stone when new bad guy Thanatos has him targeted. $1.25
NEW ☐ **The Thor Corps 1** (of 4; DeFalco & Oliffe) First of this new four issue series sees Dargo assembling a team (comprising Thunderstrike, Beta Ray Bill and Thor) to take up the challenge issued by his arch enemy, Demonstaff. $1.75
☐ **Thunderstrike 4** (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) The bright young things who patronise Marcy Steele's health clubs are being drained of their essential life force - and Mary Jane Parker is a prime contender... Features the debut of a new major Marvel villain, Pandora and a guest appearance by Spider-Man. $1.25
☐ **Uncanny X-Men 304** (Lobdell & Romita, Jr) *Fatal Attractions, Part 3* (of 6). Commemorative 30th anniversary issue. The X-Men, X-Force, X-Factor and Excalibur team up for a grand x-termination ritual during which Magneto makes a non too discreet re-entry. 64pg $3.95
☐ **The Warlock Chronicles 3** (Starlin & Rainey + K Williams) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Mephisto is determined to exact a serious price for the information so desperately needed by Warlock and Thanos. Meanwhile, Adam has a useful lesson to learn from his meeting with Eternity and Infinity. $2.00
☐ **Web of Spider-Man 104** (Kavanagh & Savuik) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Spider-Man uses some strategic ruses with the Goddess to serve his own ends. . $1.25
☐ **X-Men Anniversary Magazine** (various) A Marvel Age special, with analysis of the X-Men/Avengers crossover, with contributions from Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, Len Wein and Chris Claremont, plus backgrounders on past creators and an update on the Fox TV animated series. Cover: Peterson & Panosian. Magazine format. $3.95

SHIPPING JULY 13TH

☐ **Alpha Flight 124** (Furman & Broderick + Patterson) *Infinity Crusade: Holy Terror, Part 3* (of 3). Alpha's in the middle of a pitched battle with a demonically possessed teamster - just the time for the Goddess to turn up for a killing spree, of course. $1.75
☐ **Amazing Spider-Man 381** (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) Peter decides to resolve the dilemma about his supposed parents. Features a guest appearance by the Hulk. $1.25
NEW ☐ **Avengers Marvel Milestone 1** (Lee & Kirby + Ayers) First of a series of premiere issues, printed in the "Fanfare" format. .. $2.95
☐ **Barbie 33** (Trusiani & Cool + Robbins) Barbie Turns Superhero Shock! Ball-buster Barbie rips into a clothes manufacturer who's stolen one of Christie's dress designs! Yes, girls - even Barbie sometimes loses her temper - but don't try *that* at home!! Includes free patented ball-breaker. $1.25
☐ **Daredevil/Black Widow: Abattoir** (gn; Starlin & Chiodo) Daredevil and Black Widow team up to terminate psychopaths who are targeting low-level telepaths for assassination. But there's a serious problem: the psychopaths can read the hero's minds - and so anticipate their every move... 64pg $14.95
☐ **Darkhold 12** (Cooper & Tyler + Downs) Modred's bid to reclaim his missing lover imperils his very soul.. Elsewhere, the Redeemers begin their quest for the gateway to Chthon's realm. $1.75
☐ **Ghost Rider 41** (Mackie & Garney + Ivy) *Road to Vengeance: The Missing Link, Part 1* (of 6). First of the crossover saga recounting Ghost Rider's origin. This issue: the dread Lilith is reincarnated, Blackout returns and, during the course of the storyline, the hero's true identity is revealed to be Zarathos... Continues in **Ghost Rider & Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 14**. $1.75
☐ **Guardians of the Galaxy 40** (Gallagher & West + Montano) Talon enlists the Guardians' aid in a bid to liberate his brethren on the moon. But Loki has a secret agenda for them, planning to use them to destroy Asgard and murder Thor. Introduces new genetically engineered villain, Composite. $1.25
NEW ☐ **Hyperkind 1** (Razorline; Burke & Cullins + Petrecca) Inheriting mantles from the Paxis superhero team who, decades earlier saved the Earth from certain doom, the Hyperkind teamsters are a very different assembly of teenage outcasts. Including a former drug addict, a LA street kid, a high school jock and led by a rich girl poised on the edge of suicide, they're hardly ideally equipped to deal with the cataclysm that assaults them - driven by the Paxis's ancient nemesis.

Also features a preview of **Ectokid**. Foil prism cover. $2.50
☐ **Midnight Men 4** (of 4; Epic; Chaykin) Conclusion. Pasternak throws caution to the winds in an all-out assault on the microfilm thieves - and takes a life changing decision. $1.95
☐ **Morbius Revisited 2** (of 5; Moench & Robbins + Colletta) Reprints **Adventure Into Fear** 21. . . . . $1.95
☐ **Night Thrasher 2** (Nicieza & Saltares) Featuring a guest appearance by **Wolverine** villain, Chagrin - who's got Night Thrasher in his sights. $1.75
☐ **Offcastes 3** (of 3; Epic; Vosburg) Concluding issue sees Zak's dreadful enlightenment: he finds out that Grant is a government agent and the lovely Kaoru an assassin - and, suspecting that he's being manupulated by Jutan, he kills the high priest. A sad day's work! $1.95
☐ **Pendragon II 15** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Ross + Anderson) Concluding the Death's Head II saga. The Alternate Pendragons flee their planet, the Red Lord is summoned to the Heart of the Green Chapel and the Knights sacrifice themselves - for the greater good, it is to be hoped. $1.75
☐ **Punisher War Zone 19** (Abnett & Lanning, Haynes + Ramos) *Jericho: Part 3* (of 3). Frank's on uncertain territory when the Architect launches his final assault. Guest appearance by Wolverine. Cover: Golden. $1.75
☐ **Quasar 50** (Gruenwald & A Smith + Cabrera) Celebratory issue, in which the Silver Surfer and others pitch in when Quasar deals with darkest treachery in the Nexus of Realities. Gold holo-grafx foil-enhanced cover. 48pg $2.95
☐ **Ravage 2099 10** (P Mills & Skinner + ?) Time for a rethink, remodel for the troublesome hero. $1.25
☐ **Sabretooth 2** (of 4; Hama & Texeira) Sabretooth has time during his pursuit of the mutant shape-shifter to muse on his past life with Mystique - and in the process uncovers some worrying facts. Features guest appearance by Wolverine. "Fanfare" format. $2.95
☐ **Secret Defenders 7** (Thomas & Coates + Hudson) The Defenders rise to the challenge when Xandu the Mystic attempts to embark on a new, Earth-based operation. $1.75
☐ **Silver Sable 16** (Wright & Butler) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. The New Outlaws, Sable and the Wild Pack steam off the Somalia to do the right thing (and appease America's conscience) by ensuring the distribution of food aid. Those good intentions may come to naught when they find that Rapture, Baron Strucker and Hydra are in hotfoot pursuit. $1.25
☐ **Sleepwalker 28** (Budiansky & Krantz + Percy) Brainstorm is dispatched from the Mindscape to take wreak vengeance on the treacherous Sleepwalker. $1.25
☐ **Spectacular Spider-Man Annual 13** (DeMatteis & Bingham) Features *The Prowler v Killer Shrike* (Herdling & Romita, Sr + Milgrom) and the introduction of Nocturne, a mutant, nightworking revenge-driven cop. 64pg $2.95
☐ **Wild Thing 6** (Marvel UK; Jowett & Mighten) Nikki fights virtual reality versions of Spider-Man's enemies - and confronts the real Mysterio. $1.75
☐ **Wolverine 73** (Hama & Turner) Wolverine and Gambit combine to eradicate the mutant assassin, X-Cutioner. $1.75
☐ **Wonder Man 25** (Jones & Johnson) Scarlet Witch and the Beast make guest appearances, with Wonder Man fighting everyone in sight - not excluding himself. Embossed cover. 48pg $2.95
☐ **X-Factor 94** (Lobdell & Quesada + Milgrom) Things go awry for the Magneto Protocol when the government commissions Random to terminate Polaris - with extreme prejudice. $12.5
☐ **X-Men Adventures 11** (Macchio & Wildman + Campanella) More action from the Fox TV adaptation, with Apocalypse making a vain attempt to transform Rogue into a mutant slave - but having more success with his covert - and horrible - plans for Angel. $1.25

SHIPPING JULY 20TH

☐ **Avengers 366** (Harras & Epting + Palmer) 30th anniversary issue. With the end of its empire, the Kree Strike Force plans to drop a Nega-bomb on the Earth. Time for the Avengers to step in, it seems. Backing strip is a 22-page Glenn Herdling story continued from **Avengers Annual**. Embossed, gold foiled cover. 64pg $3.95
☐ **Avengers West Coast Annual 8** (Thomas & various) Introducing Raptor - a gentle man transmuted into a killer bird of prey and the return of Ultron and War Toy. Includes free Raptor trading card. . $1.25
NEW ☐ **Bloodseed 1** (of 4; Marvel UK Frontier; Neary & Sharp + C Smith) First of this mini-series introduces Bloodseed who - driven by the sole motive of delivery of the message encoded in his body mass - treks across a land populated by deviant monsters $1.95
☐ **Conan 272** (Thomas & Docherty + Villagran) Conan drags himself out of the morass to rescue Isparana from the Devourer of the Dead. $1.25
☐ **Cyberspace 3000 3** (Marvel UK; Russell & Tappin + Eve) Captain Cabre-Rios and Engineer O'Meara are both out of the game, so it's down to Onanwro to stymie Galactus's destruction of Sol II. Features a guest appearance by Silver Surfer. Cover: Currie and Riggs. . $1.75
☐ **Dark Angel 14** (Marvel UK; Jaye & Larocca) MySTECH's board, as Dark Angel, the Encoders and the Techno-Wizards somewhat belatedly discover, is very powerful... Guest appearance by Death's Head II. $1.75
☐ **Deadpool 2** (of 4; Nicieza & Madureira + Farmer) Focusing on an all-action aerial battle between Deadpool, the Juggernaut and Black Tom Cassidy. $2.00
NEW ☐ **Death3 #1** (of 4; Marvel UK; Abnett & Barras) Dr Necker (Death's Head II's creator) is up to her tricks again. She's trying to create the ultimate killing machine. This modern Frankenstein soon has Death Mask off the workbench, followed in quick order by Death Metal... and naturally, they end up fighting each other! $2.95
☐ **Death's Head II & Die-Cut 2** (of 2; Marvel UK; Dakin & Royle) The eponymous hero and Death's Head II combine to find a cure for Tuck's infection, a chance to expand on Die-Cut's powers and reveal the Black Museum of Cyborgs. Cover: Sharp. $1.75
☐ **Doom 2099 9** (Moore & Broderick) the Cyberverse trilogy concludes with a Chinese location for Wire and Doom's desperate attempt to escape from the computerised realm. $1.25
NEW ☐ **Ectokid 1** (Razorline; Robinson & Skroce + Dvorak) Dex Mungo was just an ordinary kid from downtown New Orleans - until, somewhat comically - he develops terrible headaches and realises that he is seeing into another dimension with one eye... Inevitably, the "Ectosphere" turns out to be inhabited by the dead, and Dex sets off to find his mother and father. Includes a five-page preview of **Hokum & Hex**. Prismatic foil cover. $2.50
☐ **Excalibur 69** (Lobdell & Buccellato) Excalibur's bid to stop Cerise's execution leads him to the very heart of the Shi'Ar Empire. $1.75
☐ **Fantastic Four Unlimited 3** (Thomas & Trimpe + Montano) The Fantastic Four power up when the Negative Zone's secrets are revealed - threatening Earth once again. "Fanfare" format. 64pg $3.95
☐ **G.I. Joe 140** (Hama & ? + Baskerville) Full-blooded slugfest action as the Joes battle the Decepticons, with new super-team Transformers: Generation 2 making a guest appearance. $1.25
☐ **Incredible Hulk 409** (David & Frank + C Smith) The alleged Scotland storyline reaches its finale, with the Hulk and Madman locked in mortal combat on top of Big Ben. Features appearances by Marvel UK's Motormouth & Killpower. . . . $1.25
☐ **Mad Dog 5** (of 6; adaptation; Dorkin & Templeton, Purcell, Akin & Albrecht) Based on CBS TV's *Bob*. This issue, McKay's Mad Dog suffers a bad bout of indigestion, and in the backing strip, Harlan Stone's Mad Dog threatens to blow the gaff on Transworld Trust. $1.25
☐ **Marvel Age 128** Features details on the **Wolverine & Sabretooth** mini-series, Epic's new sf titles and the making of Marvel Apparel. $1.00
☐ **Marvel Comics Presents 137** (anthology) Featuring: *Wolverine & Cyber: Conclusion* (Slott & Lightle); *Iron Fist* (Cavalieri & Blackburn); *Ant-Man* (Dutter & Archibald + Vancata) and *Ghost Rider & The Masters of Silence, Part 1* (of 6; Kaminski & Fry). Cover: Steve Lightle and James Fry. $1.50
☐ **Marvel Tales 277** (DeFalco & Frenz + Rubinstein) Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man** 265. Cover: Lim and Williams. $1.25
☐ **Morbius 13** (Wright & Wagner + Witherby) Morbius has finally found the page in the Darkhold containing his lover, Martine - but she's in a coma - and a pack of hellhounds have come to sniff out the page's user. $1.75
☐ **Punisher 82** (Grant & Haynes + McKenna) *Firefight! Part 1* (of 3). Frank Castle confronts an insane family - all of whom share the same predilection for lighting fires. $1.25
☐ **Savage Sword of Conan 213** (adaptation: Thomas & Kayanas + Cruz) Based on Roland Green's **Conan and the Gods of the Mountain**, opening with Conan's fight with the giant warrior, Aondo. Backing strip is *Kull of Atlantis*, a new story about the young hero's enslavement by a Lemurian pirate. Mag format. b&w $2.25
☐ **Spider-Man 38** (DeMatteis & Janson) *Light the Night, Part 1* (of 3). Electro excels all his other criminal endeavours - and endangers New York City in the course of it. $1.75
☐ **Spyke 3** (of 4; Epic; Baron & Reinhold) Spyke's search for escape back to Earth proves futile; instead he is forced to confront his most fearsome enemy, Sonia. $1.95
☐ **Super Soldiers 6** (Marvel UK; Stevens & Currie + Riggs) Hauer embarks on a lengthy preparatory phase for his team's first mission. Featuring a guest appearance by Nick Fury. $1.75
☐ **The Trouble With Girls 4** (of 4; Epic; G Jones & Jacobs, Blevins + Williamson) Les's life (if not his virtue) is imperilled when, after he and Gotter Damerung find an antidote to the Lizard Lady's nicotine addiction, her covert plans stand revealed (to say nothing of being plagued by all those tobacco multi-nationals). . . . $1.95
☐ **Warlock and the Infinity Watch 20** (Starlin & Medina + Almond) *Infinity Crusade* crossover. Pip the Troll goes off his rocker when he gets hold of the Cosmic Egg, declaring his intention to make a bid for Universal domination. $1.75
☐ **What If? 53** (Slott & Galan + Albrecht) *"What if Doom Became Sorcerer Supreme?"* What indeed? $1.25
☐ **X-Men 24** (Nicieza & Kubert) The bombshell of the mutant disease has burst upon the human populace. Elsewhere, Psylocke and Revanche patch up their quarrels and Rogue and Gambit go out for a date. Suddenly, everything's just like another American suburban tale. . $1.25

SHIPPING JULY 27TH

☐ **Akira 36** (Epic; Otomo) Disaster strikes for Lady Miyako and Akira, while Kay races time to reach the SOL military satellite - her last hope against the ever-expanding Tetsuo. Mature readers. $4.95
NEW ☐ **Avengers: The Terminatrix Objective 1** (of 4; Gruenwald & Gustovich) First of this sequel to *Citizen Kang* opens with Terminatrix in empire-building mode, land-grabbing while the Empress is away. But when Kang's military escort, the Anachronauts deserts her, she's forced to enlist Cap, Iron Man and Thor to defend herself against an attack from a futuristic cyborg woman's army - comprising USAgent, War Machine and Thunderstrike. Holo-grafix cover$2.50
☐ **Barbie Fashion 33** (Slate & Capaldi) Barbie's all heart, really - no, she is! Anyway, this issue, the mood is fulsome, as she reunites a "swinging, singing family" at a jazz festival. Now that's what I call doing good. $1.25
☐ **Black Axe 6** (Marvel UK; Jowett & Perryman + Ramos) Wakanda lurches towards war as Mohannda slips back into anarchy... Featuring guest appearance by Black Panther. Cover: Janson. . . . $1.75
☐ **Conan Saga 78** (Thomas & Buscema, Chan & N Adams) Reprints **Conan** 43-45, plus more from the Conan Comics Chronology. Cover: Beekman. Magazine format. b&w $2.25
NEW ☐ **Dances With Demons 1** (Marvel UK Frontier; Jowett & Adlard + Ramos) First of an ongoing series based on the life of student James Owl, who has inherited powers from his distant American Indian ancestor - including the ability to divine the future. But Owl's gifts are coveted by an evil, violent spirit... Foil-embossed cover. $2.95
☐ **Death's Head II #10** (Marvel UK; Abnett & A Williams + Lanning) *The Origin of Death's Head II: Part 1* (of 3). The Requiem Sharks smell Death's Head II's and Tuck's blood when the heroic duo attack the AIM installations. $1.95
☐ **Deathlok 27** (Wright & Kobasic + Vancata) Deathlok's got his hands full when the unstable Siege reappears. Elsewhere, bad guy Timestream exploits hi-tech to wage a bloody war; plus more on the Luther Manning mystery. $1.75
☐ **Dr Strange 57** (Isherwood) Doc steps in when Urthuna attempts a war of seven spheres. $1.75
☐ **Fantastic Four 380** (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) Ben Grimm embarks on a vengeance-driven campaign against Dr Doom with Sharon Ventura in mind. But Doom is too busy with a new extraterrestrial threat to even be aware of Grimm's intentions. $1.25
☐ **Feud 3** (of 4; Epic; Baron & Nelson) The Skids launch an assault on Stoker Castle when their queen is killed by Stoker forces. Meanwhile, the Grunts and the Kites' peace talks somehow manage to continue unimpeded. $1.95
☐ **Ghost Rider Annual 1** (Mackie & Bachalo + Buckingham) Features new villain, Night Terror - the rapacious (and thirsty) vampire. Includes free Night Terror trading card. Cover: Bachalo. 64pg $2.95
☐ **Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 14** (Mackie & Manley) *Road to Vengeance: The Missing Link, Part 2* (of 6). During a search for the Soul Crystal, the duo encounter Lilin, aka the Skinner... Elsewhere, Ghost Rider confronts Centurious - who later unites with Lilith.

Continued in **Ghost Rider** 42. . . . $1.75
☐ **Hellstorm 6** (Nieves & Beachum) Hellstorm takes on a light domestic job - protecting a couple from their dead daughter who returns to wreak her vengeance on them. $2.00
NEW ☐ **Hokum & Hex 1** (Razorline; Lovece & A Williams + Lanning) Earth's future - having been gambled away in a card game - depends on the failed stand-up comic Trip Munroe who, despite having a disastrous life is suddenly endowed with super-powers. He slowly comes to the realisation that it's up to him to save the Earth from invasion by the extradimensional ubenfuhrer, Felon Bale. But Munroe's greatest gift, it transpires, is his humanity. Plus a preview of **Saint Sinner**. Foil prism cover. $2.50
☐ **The Incomplete Death's Head 9** (of 12; Marvel UK) No creator credits or details at the time of going to press. $1.75
☐ **The Infinity Crusade 4** (of 6; Starlin & Lim + Milgrom) The Surfer betrays the Goddess - is promptly transmuted into a deadly weapon by Thanos - and dispatched in haste against his erstwhile leader. $2.50
☐ **Iron Man 296** (Kaminski & Hopgood + Mitchell) Tony's in for a rude awakening when he discovers that Rhodey disposed of Stark International's nuclear holdings - and assumes holographic form to stop the sale's completion. $1.25
☐ **Joe Kubert's Tor 4** (of 4; Epic; Kubert) Tor returns to his tribe to avenge his father's death. Magazine format. . $5.95
☐ **Lawdog 5** (Epic; Dixon & Henry + Barreiro) Lawdog, regenerated by the Elect in Dimension Prime, is all ready for the off when the Elete's guards appear. . $1.95
☐ **Marvel Universe Master Edition 34** (Ward & Sanderson, Pollard + Rubinstein). Loose-leaf biographical studies, with background information on Thunderstrike, Deathwatch, Caliban, Henry Pym, Turbo and the Living Eraser. 48pg $4.95
☐ **Meteor Man 2** (of 6; Coye & Hubbard, Walker + Holdredge) Rescheduled. Meteor Man schlepps across America, taking in a fight with Malefactor here and a battle with Ghost Strike there. $1.25
☐ **Moon Knight 54** (Kavanagh & Fry + Ivy) The mystery of Shadowkeep stands unveiled, and New York City trembles before it. $1.75
☐ **The 'Nam 84** (Lomax & Saichann) Final issue of the war series is told from the Vietnamese viewpoint - for only the second time in its 84-issue run. $1.75
☐ **New Warriors 39** (Nicieza & Robertson + Mahlstedt) The team count the cost of events in the *Poison Memories* saga, grieving their lost families. But a superhero's life is not a happy one, especially if, like Nova, you're being targeted by Super Nova. $1.25
☐ **Punisher 2099 8** (Mills & Skinner, Morgan + Palmiotti) Jake finds a renewed interest in life - and the Fear in death, particularly the *killing* side of it... Features guest appearance by Tyler Stone, from **Spider-Man 2099**. $1.25
☐ **Punisher War Journal 58** (Dixon & Kwapisz) The vampires get in Frank's back yard to prey on *nuns* - cue guests Ghost Rider and Daredevil. $1.75
☐ **Silver Surfer 84** (Marz & Hamner + Christopher) *Infinity War* crossover. The Surfer's recovery from a death-like coma is not really helped by an encounter with his dead parents. Cover: Lim. $1.25
☐ **Spectacular Spider-Man 204** (S Grant & Buscema) The Spider-Man/Tombstone rematch is on - and Harry Osborn's will is read. $1.25
☐ **William Shatner's Tekworld 13** (Epic; Goulart & Sullivan) *Warbride: Conclusion.* Jake mulls over what the future holds for the Bride and himself. $1.75
☐ **Thor 466** (Marz & Zick + DeCarlo) *Infinity Crusade.* The enraged Thor thunders into action against Drax. Elsewhere, Odin remembers a story from his son's past. $1.25
☐ **USAgent 4** (of 4; Gruenwald & Wyman + K Williams) Conclusion. USAgent begins his fight to the death with Bloodstain - and the secret of all the Scourges is finally unveiled. $1.75
☐ **Venom: Funeral Pyre 2** (of 3; Potts & Lyle + Rubinstein) Venom joins forces with the Punisher to deal with the hi-tech street gangs - and encounters the new super villain, Pyre. $2.95
☐ **What The-?! Fall Special** (various) Marvel Universe parody, featuring: *Silver Burper* (Stan Lee); *Spider-Ham 2099, The Incredible Bulk* and *The Death of Forbushman.* Contributors include Medina, Artis, Vey and Wiacek. 64pg $2.50
☐ **X-Force 26** (Nicieza & Capullo + Bennett) Cable keeps a watchful eye on the proceedings when the leadership of the Mutant Liberation Front changes. . $1.25
☐ **X-Men Classic 87** (Claremont & Romita, Jr + Green) Reprint series. Cover: Paul Smith. $1.25
☐ **X-Men Unlimited 2** (Nicieza & Duursema) One man has found the only weapon with the capability to kill Magneto, and he embarks on a vengeance-driven pursuit - charting Magneto's chequered history along the way. 64pg $3.95

MILLENIUM

NEW ☐ **Asylum 1** (Various) All-new horror anthology, includes work by Nick Vince & John Bolton, P Craig Russell (adapting Poe), Alden McWilliams, Matt Howarth, etc. Cover by Bolton. $2.50
NEW ☐ **HP Lovecraft's Cthulhu: Festival of Death 1** (of 3; R Thomas & J Norman) A madman escapes from Arkham Asylum (Lovecraft thought of it before Bob Kanel), the Necromonicon has been stolen, and the evil gods *The Old Ones* are being awakened by dark rites being enacted in the quiet town of Kingsport. Cover: Kelley Jones . . $2.50

MIRAGE STUDIOS

☐ **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 61** (Eastman & Laird, Lawson + Aiken) *City at War: Part 12* (of 13). The fight between the Turtles and the Shredder Elite climaxes as City at War draws to a close. $2.25
☐ **Usagi Yojimbo Volume 2 #3** (Sakai) *Shades of Green: Part 3* (of 3) Usagi, Gen and the Turtles attack the Neko Ninja clan, and young Usagi is captured by a demon in the *Autumn* back up story. . . . $2.75

NEW ENGLAND

☐ **Paul the Samurai 7** (Griffith & Garcia + Pallot) Paul returns to Japan in a village that has never recovered since the busy days of the Japanese giant monsters. Even Gomorra, the local attraction, never leaves his volcano home. The villagers turn to Paul to rekindle the monster's spirit of battle for tv station publicity. b&w . $2.75
☐ **Tales too Terrible to Tell 10** (various) 5 pre-code horror reprints plus features, letters & covers gallery. 40pg b&w $2.95

NIGHT WYND

☐ **Dragonfire: The Early Years 5** (of 8; Blair & Keown) Reprints of *Dragonring*, with Dale Keown artwork. b&w $2.50
☐ **Elfheim: Dragon's Dreams 4** (of 4; Blair) Turo magically assists Windblade in closing off the Black Nebula. b&w $2.50
NEW ☐ **Elford: Dragon's Eye 1** (of 4; Blair) Hawk Erickson receives a strange gift from the Black Elves' kingdom and an irresistible challenge. b&w $2.50
☐ **Elflore: High Seas 4** (of 4; Blair) Falcon and Purebreeze escape the lost

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tribe and leave their island aboard a mysterious ship. b&w $2.50

NEW ☐ **Samurai: Demon Sword 1** (of 4; Blair) Hotachi Kimura continues his search for his missing sword in New York as he begins a quest for redemption. b&w $2.50

NORTHSTAR

NEW ☐ **Cold Blooded: The Burning Kiss 1** (Nieves + Gomez & Hotz + McDaniel) Foil enhanced Kelley Jones cover & centrespread pin-up poster by Jim O'Barr as a vampire Alejandro de la Pena returns to fight his nemesis Tom Coker. b&w 48pg mature readers $4.95

NOW COMICS

☐ **The Green Hornet 25** (Tuttle & J Bennet) The Green Hornet struggles to save Diana Reid from her stalker. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Married... With Children: Off Broadway** (oneshot; White & Richmond + Mowry) The TV sit-com family perform famous scenes from well-known plays. $1.95

☐ **Mr Lizard 1993 Annual** (Hartman & Hawkins + Colonna) First-ever annual for Marc Hansen's creation, features Mr Lizard's first date and his college days. Polybagged with Instant Ralph Snart Action Figure (add water and gasp). $2.95

☐ **Mr T and the T-Force 2** (Stone & Adams) The continuing war against urban violence, art by Neal Adams. Direct edition polybagged with gold-foil trading card. Newsstand edition with different card. . $1.95 ea

☐ **Ralph Snart Adventures Volume 5 #3** (Hansen) Includes different trading cards in news trade and direct sale editions (#24 and 25 for record keepers). ..... $2.50 ea

☐ **Speed Racer featuring Ninja High School 3** (of 4; Levine & Broderick Jr + Schaefer) Inter-company crossover continues (with part 4 published by Eternity this month) Bagged with one of 4 trading cards. $2.50

☐ **Speed Racer 3-D Special #2** Sabotage and death in the California Grand Prix. Polybagged with 3-D glasses. $2.95

☐ **The Twilight Zone Volume 3 #5** (Llewellyn & Torres + C Smith) *The Lesson* tells of a well-meaning teacher trying to guide his teenage pupils against the odds. $2.50

OVERSTREET PUBNS

NEW ☐ **Overstreet's Advanced Comic Book Collector 1.** New quarterly elitist-titled magazine on 1930s-1950s collecting with 1930s-1950s price updates. Articles, features and tips, plus Mart Nodell contributes a feature on the Golden Age Green Lantern. Promises to sell dozens. 176pg softcover, b&w $9.95

☐ **Overstreet Comic Book Marketplace 4.** The merged Update and CBM is now comic-sized with interviews and news as well as regular features of the two magazines.$3.95

RIP OFF PRESS

☐ **Savage Henry 29** (Howarth) The Bulldaggers travel to the radioactive world of Thurmin for a gig, but the Post brothers are managing the tour! Mature readers. b&w 36pgs $2.50

SEMPLE

NEW ☐ **Captain Canuck Reborn** (Comely) Richard Comely revives his Canadian super-hero in a colour preview to the soon-to-be-launched new series. 16pgs $0.95

THE 3-D ZONE

NEW ☐ **Mr Monster's Triple Threat 3-D** (various) Reprints previous stories in 3-D by Gilbert, Beatty, Moore, Chadwick, Kitchen, Sutton & Stevens. Free 3-D glasses. $3.95

TOPPS COMICS

NEW ☐ **Jason Goes to Hell 1** (Friday the 13th Part IX) (1 of 3; Mangels & Martin + Nunis) Postponed adaptation of latest Jason movie. Glow in the dark cover, bagged with trading card. $2.95

☐ **Jurassic Park 2 & 3** (of 4; W Simonson & Kane + Perez) Classic creators on adaptation of new Spielberg movie. Direct sale editions with three trading cards, newsstand editions without. . . $2.95/$2.50

☐ **Last Action Hero 2** (of 3; Petrucha & Moore + Nyberg) Continuing adaptation of new Schwartzenegger movie, with three free trading cards. $2.95

☐ **Satan's Six 4** (of 4; Isabella & Cleary + Gil) Guest stars **Friday the 13's** Jason plus preview of Kirby's new *Teenagents* by Busiak & Vokes. Polybagged with three trading cards. $2.95

☐ **Secret City Saga 3** (of 4; R Thomas & Ditko) President Clinton is trapped by the evil Dr Roag. Cover by odd couple of Ditko & Sienkiewicz. With 3 trading cards. . $2.95

TUNDRA

☐ **The Allagash Incident** (Weiner & Rank) True-life story of two fishermen abducted by a UFO 15 years ago. With accompanying photos and articles. For Mature readers. b&w $2.95

☐ **Madman Adventures 3** (Allred) While camping in the desert, Madman discovers an ancient celestial compass. Geof Darrow back cover art. Now 48 pages $2.95

☐ **The Maximortal 6** (Veitch) Upperheimer consults with the greatest scientific mind on Earth as the superbeing continues to mutate. Elsewhere, scientists create evil creatures destined to face the Maximortal. Mature readers $2.95

☐ **Rogue Trooper: War Machine** (gn; Heavy Metal-Atomeka-Tundra; Gibbons & Simpson) You've read the weekly instalments, the Quality reprints and the Titan Books, now Tundra collects the story in an 8x11" full colour 80pg hardback. Mature readers $14.95

☐ **Tantalizing Stories 5** (Woodring & Martin) Montgomery Wart and Murgatroid contemplate larceny while Old Scrath takes manhog for a fur-burining joyride. b&w 24pgs $2.50

☐ **Trailer Trash 6** (Tompkins) From the sewer to the asylum, the misadventures of Billy & Booger. Adult. b&w. Page count dropped from 32 to 24pg . still only $2.25

☐ **Understanding Comics** (McCloud) -- being rescheduled as a Kitchen Sink title. Release date to follow. pc 216pg . $19.95

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☐ **Freex 1** (Gerard Jones & Ben

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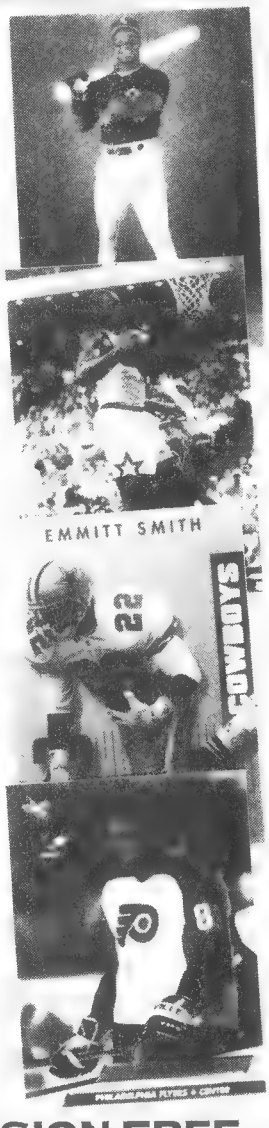

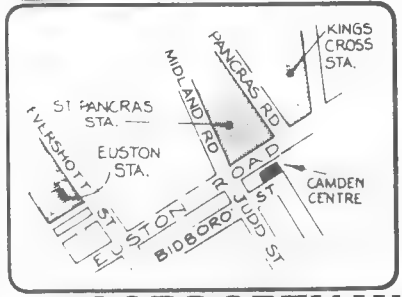

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☐ **Hardcase 2** (Hudnell & Callahan) When a super-model quits the Choice Corporation, Hardcase steps in to save the day. Polybagged with Skybox trading card. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Mantra #1** (Barr & Dodson) Lukasz is the ultimate eternal warrior. He has been reincarnated hundreds of times across history, only to repeatedly die in the battle between Archimage and the evil Boneyard. But this time he comes back in the unfamiliar form of a woman and must come to terms with his new form before entering the fray. Warstrike, a hot-blooded mercenary, also makes his debut this issue. Available bagged with Skybox trading card or "enhancement free". Cover by Walt Simonson: ..... $1.95 ea

☐ **Prime 2** (Jones + Strazewski & Breyfogle) Organism 8 is a relentless artificial bloodhound who turns Prime's life into a nightmare. Polybagged with Skybox trading card. $1.95

☐ **The Strangers 2** (Englehart & Hoberg + Burgard) The six San Franciscans suddenly transformed into ultrahumans follow a sorceress to a hidden city in the clouds, but a ruthless business tycoon has sworn to re-capture one of their team. Bagged with Skybox trading card . $1.95

VALIANT

☐ **Archer & Armstrong 15** (Perham & Wendel + Fontenot) Hot on the heels of new creators Mike Baron and Rags Morales (who debuted in #13) a new team takes over as Archer and Armstrong find themselves caught up in the middle of a power struggle between two rival sect factions. $2.50

☐ **Bloodshot 9** (VanHook & Perlin + J Dixon) Tracking down the missing Jillian, Bloodshot discovers a vicious white slavery ring in operation. $2.25

NEW ☐ **Deathmate 1 (Yellow)** (various; first Valiant issue) *Chapter One:* Ivar & Armstrong (Baron, Chang & Ramos); *Chapter Two:* WildC.A.T.S and H.A.R.D Corps (entitled H.A.R.D.C.A.T.S.) by Michelinie & Leeks; *Chapter Three:* Ninjak & Zealot by Gonzalez and Perlin; *Chapter Four:* Shadowman & Grifter by Bob Hall. 48pg with enhanced cover $4.95

☐ **Deathmate 2 (Blue)** (various; second Valiant issue) *Chapter One:* Magnus & Battlestone (Ostrander & ?); *Chapter Two:* Livewire, Stronghold, Striker and Impact (St Pierre, Chen & Bolinger; *Chapter Three:* Harbinger & Brigade (Fontenot & H. Simpson; *Chapter Four:* Solar & Supreme (Van Hook & Grau) 48pg with enhanced cover $4.95

☐ **Eternal Warrior 15** (VanHook & Moretti + J Dixon) Gilad and Geoff discover a deadly satanic cult at work $2.25

☐ **Harbinger 22** (Fontenot & H. Simpson + Mayo, Beccari) Guest-starring Archer & Armstrong as the kids visit Coney Island only to encounter a certain group of heavily armoured fanatics. $2.50

☐ **The H.A.R.D. Corps 11** (Michelinie & Leeke) Even with the binosaur problem solved, the Corps still has to deal with the Harbinger Foundation. $2.25

☐ **Magnus Robot Fighter 29** (Ostrander & Brock + Reese) Magnus teams up with the Eternal Warrior to attack a slave labour camp. $2.25

☐ **Rai & the Future Force 14** (Ostrander & Chen + Bolinger) Rai's Future Force discover the latest victims of the Malev, a divided community filled with hatred and prejudice, may be a greater threat than the aliens themselves. $2.25

☐ **Secret Weapons 2** (St Pierre & Cavallaro) *The Coming of the Darque Age Part 2* (of 3). The team struggles to gain the upper hand against Doctor Eclipse, but are they merely pawns in a greater game? $2.25

☐ **Shadowman 18** (Hall & J Dixon + Cavallaro) Shadowman and Archer & Armstrong fall victim to voodoo .. $2.50

☐ **Solar, Man of the Atom 26** (VanHook & Grau + Drake) A dark secret from Solar's past is revealed as Phil and Gayle visit a seemingly quiet little town. $2.25

☐ **Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 4** (Truman & Morales + Gonzalez) Familiar territory for Tim Truman in this second story arc which explores Turok's native American heritage. The fate of Turok's companion Andar is also resolved this month $2.50

☐ **X-O Manowar 21** (Gonzalez & Karounos + Ryder) Aric cannot be found when Ax returns to settle an old score. Instead he must deal with Randy Carter, the X-O She-Devil of War $2.25

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ **Animerica vol 1 #5** (anthology magazine) Manga strips, interviews, news & reviews. Magazine. b&w 64pg . $4.95

☐ **Battle Angel Alita Book Two #4** (of 7; Kishiro) Alita becomes a fugitive from justice, her only hope being to confront the love of her life. b&w $2.75

☐ **Crying Freeman Part Five #9** (of 11; Koike & Ikegami) Prominent yakuza bosses hire a cadre of undercover assassins to spy on Freeman's lover who follow to Freeman himself. Adult, N, V b&w $2.75

☐ **Maison Ikkoku 2** (of 7; Takahashi) A love story full of comic and romantic twists as a student, beleaguered by noisy neighbours, falls in love with his young new landlady. b&w, 40pgs $2.95

NEW ☐ **Pixy Junket 1** (of 6; Pure) In the tradition of **Appleseed**, a UFO's landing starts a confrontation with the local police while a pixy able to bestow wealth and power on her possessor creates problems when she emerges from a mysterious pod. b&w $2.75

☐ **Ranma 1/2 Part 2 #7** (of 11; Takahashi) Akane and Ranma face a diabolical duo in a combined figure skating & wrestling match b&w 40pg $2.95

☐ **Sanctuary Part II #3** (of 5; Fumimura & Ikegami) Asima wins a fight with a new congressman, the Prime Minister seeks the support of Asai, and Hojo is attacked by assassins. Mature readers b&w 72pg 4.95

WARP GRAPHICS

NEW ☐ **Elfquest: Blood of Ten Chiefs 1** (R Pini & J Johnston) Based on short stories published by Tor Books. *Colors* tells of the first ever Wolfrider chief, Timmom Yelloweyes$2.00

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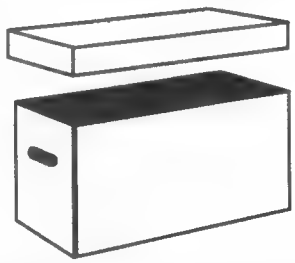

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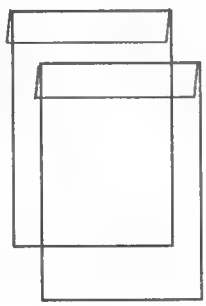

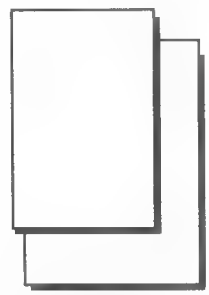

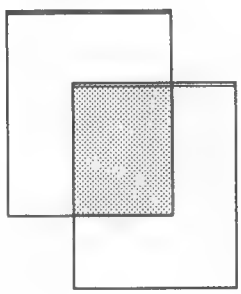

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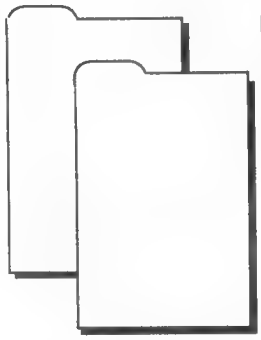

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ind = US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit = British comics & albums
frgn = foreign language comics
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■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

MIDLANDS

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484122

■ **Arrival Comics & Books**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, horror, western, pulp, vintage glamour & pop) 0902-313 880

■ **Bookworm**, Unit 3, 33-39 Tower Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon-Sat 11.00 - 4.00. (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle St, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10 - 6. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, m/o: wants lists with sae) 0473 233017

■ **Comic Showcase**, 17 Norfolk Street, Cambridge. Mon - Fri 11.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0223 69206

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0234 218984

■ **Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG, m/o) 0462 480018

■ **Demon Comics**, 12 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0432 358355

■ **Fantastic Store**, 6 Suffolk St, Queensway, Birmingham, B1 1LT. Mon-Fri 9.30 - 6.00; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 021 643 3667

■ **Fantastic Store**, Virgin Megastore, 6-8 Wheelergate, Nottingham. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0602 476246

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

■ **The Final Frontier**, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) Established 1984 0533 514347

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, m/o, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

■ **Magic Labyrinth**, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1RD Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, m/o, STO, RPG) 0533 518178 fax:0533 518179

■ **Mephisto Comics**, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0603 762762

■ **Nowhere Comics**, Units 7-8 Guildhall Mews, Goodall St, Walsall. (top end of market) Mon-Thur 10.30-5.30, Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, videos, m/o to wants lists 0922 643352

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon-Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri+Sat 9.15-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, m/o, STO) 021 643 0143

■ **Outer Limits**, 4 The Broadway, Bedford, MK40 2TH. Tues-Sat 9-6, Mon 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0234 358581

■ **Outer Limits**, 12 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP. Mon-Sat 9 - 6; Thurs late night until 8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0582 422082

NEW **Outer Limits**, 43 Kettering Road, Northampton. Mon-Sat 10.00 -6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0604 601555

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester. Fri-Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, m/o, STO-monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, 98 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SX. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6.00; Thurs 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, tv-film & fantasy, gn, merch, STO) 021 236 5735 fax: 021 236 8153

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

■ **Zoom Comics!!**, Unit 3 Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, M/O, STO) 021 354 7500

NORTH WEST

■ **Arcadia Comics** , 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror & sf mags and novels, Doctor Who, Trek, ltd merch, ltd gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures, m/o: send wants list) 061 339 1816

■ **Box 5 News**, 19 Blakey Moor (near Waves), Blackburn, Lancs BB2 1LL. Mon -Sat 7.00 - 6.00 (imp, Brit, STO, g-n) 0254 698020

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who.) 061 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool. 10 - 5.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat all year; Mon & Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun + Mon. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, limited gn, m/o, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, limited gn, m/o, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items. 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington (city centre), Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10-6; Wed 12-6 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy film mags) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks) 0482 29787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, bags boxes & accessories) 0642 249143

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 8, Regency West Mall, Princes Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, boxes bags & accessories) 0642 617241

■ **Dells Comic & Book Stalls**, 129 Kirkgate Market, Bradford 1. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9-3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

■ **Happy Planet**, Rocks Off, 85 Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2RD. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30, Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, s-p, Brit, STO) 0274 736 292

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 limp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 0429 236952

■ **Nu Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, Star Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps, m/o) Establ 1965.

WEST COUNTRY

■ **Comics & CDs**, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244855

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon-Fri 11.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0722 331107

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6, (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o) 0305 269737 (after 6pm 833304)

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Maelstrom Comics** (within Apostrophe Records), 66 Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-6. (imp, back, s-p, small merch, ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0272 633523

■ **Purple Haze**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL1 1BX (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

■ **Wonderworld**, Unit 2, Bevois St, Southampton S01 1JD. Tues-Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 234815

■ **Wonderworld**, 25 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0705 833 272

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 61 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1UL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 525320

WALES

■ **Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey Into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & cds)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

■ **AKA Books & Comics**, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ. Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00. (back issue specialists) 041-632 2786 (after 6pm)

■ **Dead Head Comics**, 44 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW. Mon - Wed, Fri, Sat: 10 - 6.30; Thurs 11 - 7.30; Sunday 12 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 031 226 2774

■ **Earth 2 Comics** Candleriggs Market, 71-73 Albion St, Glasgow G1 1RB. Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Sun 10-5.30. (back issue specialists, gn, SF bks, ind, m/o -- send wants; sae for silver age & hot comics list) 041-647 6810 (after 6pm)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, STO) 031-225 8613

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 5.30; Thurs + Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO) 041 331 1215

■ **Future Shock**, 89 Byres Road, Partick, Glasgow G11. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 1-5 (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, SF & horror gn & hbk, film bks & mags, artwork, jewellery) 041 339 8184

■ **Kaos Komics and Kollectables**, 19 Diamond Street, Aberdeen AB1 1QU. Mon-Sat 10-6; Thurs till 8; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO, jewellery, crystals, t-shirts, m/o send wants. 0224 620212

■ **Paul's Comics**, The Gallowgate Market, 148 Gallowgate, Glasgow. Sat & Sun 8.30 - 4.30. (imp, back, ind, merch, STO, m/o: PO Box 932, Glasgow G21 1YY, sae + want list) Mon-Fri: 041 557 1186

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 28-32 Union Street, Glasgow, G2 7LZ. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-7; Sun 12-5.30. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 041 221 2915; Fax 041 221 2916

■ **Plan 9 Comics**, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB1 1NE. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (Thurs till 8), Sun 1 - 5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o: send wants, RPG specialist, board games, figures, STO) 0224 624467

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ **Dark Horizons**, 30a Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4LD (near City Hall) Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, subculture, film mags, m/o - wants list with sae) 0232-233808

■ **Talisman Comics**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0232-438744

CHANNEL ISLANDS

■ **Music & Video Exchange**, 11a La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (back, ind, Brit, u/g, records, videos, hi-fi, m/o -- wants lists preferred) 0534 36606

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NEW ADVENTURE 17, July 1937. ds, 1 staple detached (det), 4 pages missing, o/w vg+.

ALL AMERICAN COMICS 3, 6/39. Front cvr det, w/slight tears, back cvr missing. Inside intact

CIRCUS, The Comic Riot 1, 6/38, scarce. Bob Kane, Will Eisner, Basil Wolverton. Back cvr missing, but front cvr still attached, spinal tear, o/w vg/f.

COMICS ON PARADE 3, 6/38. Cvr det, w/2" tear + smaller ones, back cvr missing, pages torn, flaking and browning.

COMICS ON PARADE 16, 7/39. Browning along edges, very minor flaking, staples rusted, but tight. vf-

CRACKAJACK FUNNIES 1, 6/38. Slight browning, ds, last page missing, o/w vf-.

CRACKAJACK FUNNIES 3, 8/38. Front cover loose, back cover missing.

CRACKAJACK FUNNIES 12, 6/39. Slight spinal flaking, browning, 3pp missing, o/w vf-.

DETECTIVE 1, 3/37, very scarce, the first ever DC comic, less than 30 copies known to exist. Some spinal wear, ds, 1/4" tear, light "star" stamp + small creases on cvr. Originally bound w/only 1 staple, other intact. Two pages loose, and 4 pages missing, 48 remain.

DETECTIVE 17, 7/38. Front cvr det, w/crease, back cvr missing, browning, sev. pp missing.

DETECTIVE 18, 8/38. Cvr loose but complete, rusty staples, but interior staples tight, light staining, browning, slight scuffing, tiny tears, o/w vg/vg+.

FAMOUS FUNNIES 26, 9/36. ds, large shop stamp, tiny writing on cvr, o/w f/vf. Torn along spine, browning, 2 of 3 staples det. Feature BKs 2, Popeye.

FEATURE BOOKS 8, Secret Agent X-9, 12/37. ds, browning, crease, minor flaking, o/w f+.

FEATURE BOOKS 12, Blondie (£1). Slight flaking, chipping, piece torn from corner, o/w f.

THE FUNNIES 6, 3/37. Front cvr loose, back cvr missing, int. staples tight.

THE FUNNIES 15, 12/37. Cvr loose, much flaking along spine.

THE FUNNIES 21, 6/38. Front cvr det, back cvr missing, lge tear across cvr.

FUNNY PICTURE STORIES 5, 3/37. Rusty staples, cvr loosening but intact, stains, ds, spinal tears, o/w vg/f.

JUMBO COMICS 8, oversized, World's Fair Special, Peter Pup, by Bob Kane, Will Eisner writing as Willis Rensie, 6-7/39. Spinal wear, cvr bent, o/w vg/f.

KEEN DETECTIVE FUNNIES 8, (first as that title), 7/37. Browning, flaking along spine. vf-.

MORE FUN COMICS 12/37. Cvr det, g+.

SUPER COMICS 4, Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, etc., 8/38. ds, Rusty staples, minor flaking, o/w vf.

SUPER COMICS 6, 10/38. ds, slight flaking. f.

TIP TOP COMICS 11, 3/37. ds, vf-.

TIP TOP COMICS 13, 5/37. Corner crumbling, browning, vg.

TIP TOP COMICS 26, 6/38. Rusty staples, small scuff, browning, vf.

TIP TOP COMICS 32, 12/38. Tiny spinal tear, slight browning, vf.

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16 (Ditko) nm 1.50
17-19 (Byrne) nm 1.50
20 nm 2.00
21 22 nm 1.50

FF Giant Size
1 (titled Giant Size Superstars) fn+ 5.00
2-3 nm- 5.50

Fantastic Four v X-Men
1 2 vfn 1.20

FF Index 1 nm 10nm ... 0.80

Fear (1970s horror repr)
7 8 vfn 1.50

Foolkiller 1-10 nm- 1.50

Gargoyle 1-4 vfn+ 0.80

Ghost Rider
2 nm 9.50
15 (2nd edition) nm 2.50
27 (X-Men) nm 3.95
28 (bagged) nm 3.95

Ghost Rider & Cable Special
1 ($3.95) nm 3.00

GI Joe
2 (1st printing) nm 12.50
3 4 6 nm 4.00
7 nm 3.50
8 fg 0.50
10-18 nm 3.00

Groo (all publishers)
Pacific: 3 nm 9.95
5 vfn 7vfn 6.00
Epic issues: 10 nm 4.00
13 nm 19nm 2.80
36 37 39-41 nm 1.80
43-47 49 52-53 nm 1.20

Guardians of the Galaxy
17-20 nm 3.00
(Cable origin across 4 issues)
25 nm (foil cvr) 2.00

Hawkeye (mini) 1 3 nm .. 2.00

Hell's Angel 1 4-6 nm ... 2.00

Hercules (mini) 1-4 nm .. 2.00
vol 2: 1-4 nm 1.80

Hollywood Superstars
1-4 nm 1.50

Howard the Duck 10 nm 1.20
mini: 1 nm (Kyle Baker) .. 1.00

Iceman 1 2 4 nm 1.50

Impossible Man Special
1 nm 1.50

Incredible Hulk 113 fn- .. 4.95
116 vfn 6.00
117 vg 1.95
118 vfn- 4.50
119 vfn 120 vfn 5.00
123-125 vg 1.80
126 vfn 4.00
127 vg 128vg s/s 1.50
129 131 vfn 4.00
130 vg+ 1.50
132 vg 133-135g-v 1.00
136-139 vfn 3.20
140 v (Ellison) 2.50
142 nm 4.00
143 vg+ light s/s 1.50
144 nm 4.00
145 (giant, vfn) 5.00
146 vfn 3.50
147 148 g-v 1.20
149 vfn 151vfn 2.50
155 156 vfn 3.50
158 fn (Warlock cameo) ... 2.50
162 (1st Wendigo) vg+ 2.00
163 nm 3.95
166 vg 1.50
168 170 nm- 3.50
183 184 vfn 2.00
187 v 1.00
191 192-199 vfn+ 1.80
201-249 vfn-nm 1.50
251 fn (3-D Man) 252fn ... 1.00
253 254 256 257 nm- 1.20
262 263 nm- 1.00
281 vfn 301vfn 0.80
314 (1st Byrne)nm 315nm 1.20
336-337 nm (vs X-Factor; McFarlane) 5.80
339 344 (McF; nm) 4.80
345 (McF; scarce) nm 6.50
346 347 (McFarlane; nm) . 4.20
348 349 nm 1.20
350 (Thing v Hulk) nm ... 2.50
351-353 355 356 nm 1.20
357 fn 0.80
Keown: 370 nm 3.50
373-375 nm 3.00
376 nm 5.00
382 383 387 392 nm 1.50
393 (giant) nm 3.00
Annuals: 5 8 vfn+ 1.50
5 vfn+ 2.00
9 10 12 13 15 nm 1.20

Infinity Gauntlet 1 nm .. 3.50
2 nm 2.50
3 4 6 nm 1.95

Infinity War 1 nm 2.20
2 3 nm 1.50

Inhumans Special 1 nm 1.00

Interface (Epic) 1 nm 1.50

Iron Fist (Byrne) 6 nm ... 4.00
7 vfn 3.50
13 nm 3.95

Iron Man 7 vfn- 12.50
10 g-v 3.50
11 12 16 fn 5.20
17 vfn+ 9.00
18 vfn- small s/s 7.50
19 20 vfn 8.20
22 23 nm 9.00
24vg 25vg 3.20
26 27 vfn+ 6.00
28 30 fn+ 4.00
31fn 32fn 3.20
33 vfn 4.20
36 38 vg+ 2.50
48 49 vfn- 3.00
56 (Starlin) vfn 7.50
57-59 61-66 nm- 2.95
67 nm- 4.50
69 fn- 1.00
102-107 109-111 nm- 1.00
112-114 116 nm- (scarce) 2.50
125 126 171 172 174 nm- 1.50
175-184 187 188 nm- 1.00
189 199 202 206 nm- 1.20
221 222 nm- 1.00
223 224 nm- 1.80
225(1st Armor Wars) nm . 3.50
226 230 231 nm 2.20
232 (Barry Smith) nm 2.80
233-242 nm 1.50
243 (Barry Smith art, Tony Stark shot) nm 2.00
288 (metallic cover) nm .. 1.50
Annuals 6 nm 2.00
7 (WC Avengers) nm 2.00
8 (X-Factor) nm 3.00
9 10 nm 1.50

Journey into Mystery (Thor)
99 g+ 6.00
103 g-v, biro 5.00
123 g light s/s 3.50

Jungle Action (1973)
3 v; wrinkled 1.00
4 fn+ 1.50
features Black Panther #7 on
11-16 vfn 1.00

Ka-Zar 1970 series:
3 (new Angel strip) frn sp . 0.80
1974 series: 1 ..... 1.50
2-4 vfn 1.00
5 fg s/s 0.20
6-17 vfn 0.80
18 vfn (scarce) 1.20
1981 series: 1 nm 1.20
2-10 nm 1.00
11-24 26-33 nm 0.60
34 (final, scarce) nm 1.00

Kitty Pride & Wolverine (mini) 1 nm 5.50
2nm 3nm 3.50
4nm 5nm 4.20

Knights of Pendragon (UK) volume 1:
6 (Bisley cvr) 1.50
16 nm 1.00
vol 2: 1-3 6 7 nm 1.00

Kull & the Barbarians (mag)
3g (Chaykin, Weiss) 1.50

Kull The Destroyer
1972: 11 (Ploog) fn 1.20
1982: 52 pgs: 1 vfn- 1.50
1983: 52 pgs: 1 nm 1.20
2 nm 1.00

Last American 1 2 vfn .. 1.20

Light & Darkness War
4 nm 1.00

Legion of Night ($4.95)
2 nm 2.00

Longshot (Art Adams)
5 (Spider-man) nm- 8.50

Machine Man (Smith mini)
1-4 nm 1.50

Marshal Law (Epic) 1 vfn-4.50
2-6 nm 4.00

Marvel Comics Presents
1 nm 5.00
3-10 nm 2.00
11-17 nm 1.00
18 (Byrne) nm 1.20
20-24 26 27 nm 1.00
30 nm 1.50
38 (Excalibur/Larsen) nm . 2.00
39 41 nm 1.20
42 vg 0.50
42-47 nm 1.20
48-50 52 53 nm 2.00
54-56 58-61 nm 2.50
62 nm (Deathlok) 4.00
63 64 nm 2.20
70 71 nm 1.50
72 (1st Weapon X) nm ... 5.00
73 74 nm 2.50
76-85 88 90nm 1.50
91-98 nm 1.20
100 nm 1.80
102 104-106 108 nm 1.00

Marvel Fanfare
1 (Spidey & Angel, Smith & Golden art) nm 7.00
3 (X-Men) nm 4.00
5 (Dr Strange) nm 1.80
6 (Spider-Man) nm 1.50
7 (Hulk, Daredevil) nm ... 1.50
8 (Sienkiewicz) nm 2.00
9-14 nm 1.20
15 (Thing by Smith) nm .. 3.50
16 17 nm 1.00
19 nm 2.00
20 22-23 25 26-32 nm ... 1.00
33 (X-Men) nm 2.50
34-37 nm 1.00
38 (Moon Knight Sienc)nm 2.00
40 nm 1.20
41 (Dr Str; Gibbons)nm ... 1.50
44 53 nm 1.20

Marvel Feature (1976)
Red Sonja: 2 3 5 6 7 nm .. 1.00

Marvel Fumetti Bk 1 nm 1.95

Marvel Holiday Special
1 (X-Men, A Adams) nm .. 2.00

Marvel Masterworks
Fantastic 4 (1-10) 18.95
X-Men (1-10) 18.95

Marvel Movie Premiere
"Land that Time Forgot" .. 6.00

Marvel Premiere
21 23 (Iron Fist) nm 4.50
26 27 vfn 1.00
28 (Legion of Monsters)nm 7.00
29-31 nm 0.80
32-34 (Chaykin) nm 1.00
35 36 37 (3-D Man) nm ... 1.50
38-44 nm 0.60
45-46 (Perez) nm 1.80
47-48 (Ant-Man Byrne) nm 1.50
50 (Alice Cooper) nm 4.50
51-56 nm 0.60

Marvel Preview (b&w mag)
1 (Nino) 4.00
3 (Blade) 2.00
4 (first Starlord) 3.00
5 6 (Sherlock Holmes) ... 2.00

7 (Satana) 2.00
8 (Legion of Monsters) ... 2.00
9 (Gladiator) 2.00
10 (Thor) 2.00
11 (Byrne Starlord) fn 2.50
12 (Haunt of Horror) 3.00
13 (UFOs) 2.00
14 15 (both Starlord) 2.00
16 (Masters of Terror) 2.00
17 (Blackmark Gil Kane) .. 3.00
18 (Sienkiewicz Starlord) . 4.00
19 (Kull) 2.00
20 (Chaykin & Perez) 3.00
21 (Moon Knight Sienkiewicz + Ditko's Shroud) 4.50
22 (Merlin: Buscema) 3.00
23 (Miller, Bissette) 3.00
24 (Paradax) 2.00

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21 (Son of Satan) nm 4.00
26 (Scarecrow) nm 1.20
27 (Namor) nm 0.95
28 29 (1st solo Moon Knight issues) nm 3.50
30 (Warriors 3) nm 0.80
31 (Fury, Chaykin) fg 0.50
vol 2: 2-4 (Cap Marvel) nm 0.80
5-7 nm (Starlord) 0.60
9 (Capt Universe) nm 0.80
11 (rare) nm 1.20

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16 (Phantom Eagle) vg ... 2.00

Marvel SuperHeroes Special
1 (Spring '90) nm 1.20
2 (Summer '90) nm 1.20
9 (Spring '92) nm 1.20

Marvel Super Special
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20 vg (Panther) 2.50
21 vfn (Dr Strange) 3.20
22 fn+ 2.80
24 vg 0.80
26-29 nm 2.00
30 vg 1.00
32 vg- 0.60
32 vfn- (Son of Satan) 3.50
33-37 vfn 1.80
38 vfn (Beast) 3.20
39-45 vfn 1.80
46 nm (Deathlok) 5.50
47-52 nm 1.50
53 (Byrne's 1st X-Men) nm 7.20
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55 (Warlock; Byrne) nm .. 6.50
56 57 (Byrne) nm 1.50
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81 nm (Satana) 2.50
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119-122 124 125 127 .... 0.80
129-134 136 138-140 .... 0.80 142-148nm 0.80
149 (New Mutants) nm ... 1.20
Annuals: 2-5 7 nm 1.50

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11 (FF Kirby reprints) 2.00
13 (Grab Bag) 2.00
23 (Conan 84pg, Buscema Smith Kane) 3.00

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12 (Iron Man) vfn 2.00
13 (Power Man) vfn 2.00
14 (Son of Satan) nm 3.50
15 (Morbius) nm 4.00
16-18 vfn- 1.80
19-22 24 26 28 30-41 nm . 1.50
44 45 47-49 nm 1.50
50 (Byrne; old Thing)nm .. 3.00
51 (Miller) fn+ 1.50
51 (Miller) nm 3.00
52 (Moon Knight) nm 1.50
53 55 (Byrne) nm 2.20
57-62 nm 1.20
63 (Warlock) nm 2.50
64-67 nm 1.20
68 (Angel) nm 1.50
69 (Guardians/Galaxy) nm 2.50
71 nm 0.80
72 73(ND) 75(gt) nm 1.50
74 76-79 nm 1.00
80 (Ghost Rider) nm 2.50
81 82 nm 1.20
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84 (Alpha Flight) nm 1.20
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7 (X-Men) nm 5.00

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1 3 nm 2.50

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Micronauts 30 38 vfn ... 0.50
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4 5 nm 2.00
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26 27 29 nm 1.20
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2-4 6 nm 0.80

Moonshadow (Epic)
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18-30 nm 1.20
31 36-41 nm 1.00

New Mutants
2 nm 4.00
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4-6 nm 2.00
7 nm 2.50
8-13 nm 1.80
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51-53 55-58 nm 1.00
59 60 (giant) nm 2.00
61-70 nm 1.00
71 72 73 vfn (Inferno) 1.50
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74 76-83 nm 1.00
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Annuals: 4 nm 2.50
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vol 1: 8v 2.00
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26 30 vfn+ 1.50
31 nm 2.00
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41 g 0.20
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59 60 62-65 nm 1.50
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(US, 1991) 1 nm 2.00
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1 nm (Jim Lee) 10.50
2 3 (Daredevil; Lee) nm .. 8.00
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7 (Wolverine; Lee) nm ... 6.00
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14-15 (Spider-Man Lee)nm 2.00

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Quasar 1 2 nm 1.00

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10 12-16 vfn+ 1.00
17 18 (both X-Men) vfn+ .. 2.00
19-22 vfn+ 0.50
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4 (Adams Kane Corben)fn+ 3.50
72 vfn+ 0.80

Savage Sword of Conan
(UK) 17 61 vfn 0.80

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G/Novel (Byrne) fn+ 3.50

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2 3 4 6-8 nm 1.20
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71 73 74 nm 1.20
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90 93 nm 1.50
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102 103 105-106 nm 1.20
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Annuals: 4 6 nm 2.00

Spider-Man
1 (green bagged) nm 4.00

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175 vfn+ 0.60

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31-33 vfn 3.00
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41 44-50 nm 2.80
43 (gt) nm 5.00
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Void Indigo 1 2 nm 2.50

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34 nm 1.50
38 nm 3.00
39 44-47 nm 1.50
47 nm 2.50
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51 nm 1.00

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2 nm 1.80
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10 11 nm 1.20
22 24-28 33-41 nm 0.50
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Annual 4 nm 1.50

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161 nm (origin Magneto) .. 2.50
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176 nm 3.00
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193 giant nm 3.50
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243 nm 2.00
244 nm 1.80
245 nm 3.50
246 249 250 nm 1.20
252 255 nm 1.00
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259 262 nm 1.00
265 nm 1.00
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Annuals: 3 (Perez) nm ... 5.50
5 nm 4.00
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(giant, 2-part mini)
1 2 nm 2.80

X-Men & Micronauts (mini)
1-4 nm 2.00

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2 3 4 nm 1.50

X-Men Classics
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10 nm 2.80
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12 nm 2.50
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20 nm 3.00
22 nm 1.50

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58(Byrne) nm 2.00
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60 (giant) nm 2.50
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71 72 nm 2.50

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Thing (Byrne: 1-7)
1 nm 2.80
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8-31 nm 0.50

Thor
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185v 2.00
187 vfn+ 6.00
188 189 vfn+ 3.80
190-192 vfn+ 6.00
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212 213 vfn+ 2.20
214v 215v 1.20
219 vfn+ 2.20
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241 243-248 250-253 .... 0.80
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285-299 nm 0.80
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304 305 nm 1.20
307-321 nm 0.50
337(1st Simonson) nm ... 4.00
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339 nm 1.50
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343-354 nm 1.00
355 nm 0.50
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384-387 390 nm 0.50
391-393 396 nm 0.50
397 398 nm 0.50
400 nm 1.80
401-403 409 410 nm 0.50
413 414 nm 0.50
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REVIEWS

It is the intention of ***Comics International*** *to help you, the comic reader, keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow you to read all titles in stock before choosing your purchases; our reviews are designed to counter this and draw your attention to comics you might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they only discover the quality of a new title after purchase.*

Review codes: *General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other ***similar*** *titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare* ***Love & Rockets*** *to* ***Batman****, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +>) if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviews Editor: Sarah Bolesworth

Reviewing panel: Fabio Paolo Barbieri (FPB), Paul Birch (PB), Jonathan Farmer (JF), Mike Graney (MG), Rol Hirst (RH), Mike Kidson (MK), Skinny Melink (SM), Peter C. Phillips (PCP) and Derek G. Skinn (DGS)

DC COMICS

Adventures of Superman 500 <-> (Ordway & Grummet + various) Pa Kent and the Gangbuster get more pages than any of the new Supermen who only appear at the end in tiny teasers, as DC milks the death of Superman for all its worth, including extra, *extraneous* pages in the more expensive collector's edition, which features a daft peel-off cover. Overhyped, overpriced and unsatisfying.(SM) **5**

Animal Man 59 <- -> Terrific Bolland cover, shame about the comic, which is let down by a strained, implausible PC story dogged by erratic art, sloppy colouring and spelling mistakes: after pulling off a sleazy revenge caper, I somehow don't thing that Ellen meant to say that she felt immortal. (SM) **5**

<+ -> (Vertigo; Delano & Braun + Higgins) Ellen falls in with a radical feminist group and delivers just deserts to a homophobic rapist who threatened her family. Buddy comes to the rescue but gets arrested for sniffing people's clothes. Sharp characterisation, humour, horror and what they used to call 'social comment'. (RH) **9**

Batman Adventures 8 <+> (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Another delightfully simple tale in three acts. This time out, Batman is searching for a mysterious adversary who appears to be able to vanish without trace. The well structured story cleverly unfolds and the visuals are clean and impressive. (JF) **9**

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 44 <+ -> (Grant & McManus) The Rodney King affair is used as a basis for Steven Grant's hard hitting tale of police corruption, where even the future Commissioner Gordon seems not without guilt. Racism boils in Gotham, and Batman investigates a trail of brutal murders. (RH) **8**

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 12 <+> (Grant & Giarrano) Batman and the Human Flea race to stop Kadaver infecting Gotham with the pneumonic plague. Grant mixes the action with a sly commentary on animal experimentation - and almost pulls it off without a cringe. (RH) **7**

Batman 492 <+> (Moench & Breyfogle) The opening gambit of the *Knightfall* crossover has Batman and Robin invited to the Mad Hatter's tea party, while Film Freak is sacrificed to Bane. Provided the Bat-team manage to sustain the excitement of this first episode, this story looks exciting. (RH) **8**

Batman 492, 493 <+> (Moench & Breyfogle) *Knightfall:* So begins the darkest chapter in the Dark Knight's life - since the last anniversary, anyway. The Arkham inmates are free and a weary Batman cannot rest. Exactly the same as **Batman 400**, also written by Moench, but more drawn out and with none of the panache of that issue. Only Breyfogle and cover artist Jones add badly needed credibility. (JF) **4**

Black Condor 12 <+ -> (Augustyn & Morales + Space) Taking a break from his breakdown, Batman makes a guest appearance in this issue as the Condor seeks a missing person in Gotham. The expressive art works well, despite its occasional awkwardness. The storyline itself proves to be little other than an excuse to visit the streets of Gotham. (JF) **5**

Blood Syndicate 1 (Milestone; McDuffie & Velez, Von Eeden + Pepoy) Impressive (if violent) debut under the Milestone banner. The Blood Syndicate are ganglanders with a refreshing, amoral tone; a drug abuser and a paranoic with a lot of bad attitude: interesting fodder for future stories. (RH) **7**

Journalist makes contact with a superhuman to get the lowdown on their origins and motives. Hard to tell the good guys from the bad amid the excessive violence, which appears to be the central focus of the title. (PCP) **7**

Darkstars 7 <++> (Friedman & Charest, Balent + Hanna) Flint, one of the Darkstars deputies, quits in disgrace - nicely played down by Friedman. The most enjoyable issue to date, only let down by a fill-in artist rushing the last few pages. (RH) **7**

Death: The High Cost of Living 3 <-> (Vertigo; Gaiman & Bachalo + Buckingham) A conclusion in which nothing is really concluded. Enigmatic to the extreme, Gaiman ends this excellent mini-series as he began it and, although the plot threads are resolved, the real answers are hidden... (RH) **8**

<+> Death's brief - to sojourn among the living - concludes on a high note, though the series ends too quickly. This sort of quality is really in demand - and DC could start with another series. (PCP) **10**

Deathstroke the Terminator 22 <+ -> (S Grant & Morrissette + Statema) Wilson is drawn into a war between feuding government agencies. Routine melodrama, lacking any credibility. (PCP) **2**

Detective Comics 659 <++> (Dixon & Breyfogle) The *Knightfall* storyline gathers momentum and there's a neat twist for the Ventriloquist: separated from Scarface, he takes on a sock puppet as partner. Good to see Breyfogle back on Batman - his work lifts this book above the average. (RH) **8**

Detective Comics 659, 650 <-> (Dixon & Breyfogle, Dixon, Balent + Hanna) *Knightfall:* As Batman's condition deteriorates following a nearly disastrous battle, Robin finds himself in the middle of a battle between Bane and Killer Croc. The somewhat average story's development is thankfully aided by Breyfogle's delightful art, along with the promising work of newcomer Balent. (JF) **5**

Doom Patrol 66 <+> (Vertigo; Pollack & Case + Woch) Things come together in a much more pleasing way in this conclusion to Rachel Pollack's first **Doom Patrol** story. Cliff suffers from flashbacks to earlier storylines, while Dorothy and Doc Magnus attempt to save the day - and the Chief. The most encouraging signs Pollack has shown of being a suitable replacement for Grant Morrison. (RH) **6**

Eclipso 7 <-> (Giffen & Fleming + McKeever) Ted McKeever's unusual art creates an eerie atmosphere in this flashback tale about Eclipso's return to Victorian England. Cue the most obvious of contemporary references - Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes - and some great Dick Van Dyke accents, guv'nor. (RH) **6**

<+> The bizarre Mr McKeever delves into the background of the violent demon stalking the streets of London in the 1890s. If the dialogue is occasionally stilted the artwork is delightful, and the story provides some fine characterisation. (JF) **8**

Enigma 3 <+> (Vertigo; Milligan & Fegredo + Van Valkenburg) After three issues, this title is beginning to find its feet. It's *comfortably* iconoclastic, turning various superhero stereotypes on their heads, and yet dedicates much energy and space to the central character of Michael Smith, a man who gets more interesting with every issue. Which is just how it should be, after all. (RH) **8**

Flash 76 <+> (Waid & Laroque + Richardson) The recently resurrected Barry Allen betrays Wally West and leaves him to die. Part of Wally *does* die - the part that respects and worships Barry as a real hero. A gripping, emotive storyline - but I don't know how DC can tie it up without permanently tarnishing Allen's name. (RH) **8**

<+> A demented Barry Allen leaves Wally to die in an ingenious death trap. Waid pens another masterful series puzzler. Johnny Quick and the original Golden Age (Quality) Quicksilver make guest appearances in the Jay Garrick subplot. (PCP) **8**

Green Arrow: The Wonder Year 4 <+ -> (Grell & Morrow) A satisfying conclusion to the hero's first year. Tracking an assassin, Green Arrow learns the tricks he'll need to survive. Strong characterisation and an action script prove enticing, but the visuals are not always strong enough. (JF) **7**

Green Arrow 74 <+> (Grell & Pensa) While Grell provides a more action-packed script than usual, it is Pensa who really shines. His visualisation is excellent, intense and pacey, perfectly complimenting the story of a government sniper gone awry. (JF) **8**

Hardware 2 <-> (Milestone; McDuffie & Cowan + Palmiotti) An over long fight scene with villain Reprise showcases Hardware's arsenal, but once it's over, the hero moves on to question his methods and motives. Nice Cowan art, but marred again by murky colouring. (RH) **6**

Hellblazer 65 <+ -> (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) On the money issue, its powerful, timely storyline representing Ennis's best work since he took over the comic (while reminding us once again that it doesn't pay to be JC's friend), perfectly complimented by Steve Dillon's striking, smooth and original art - not to mention Glenn Fabry's magnificent cover - straight out of **Wuthering Heights**. (SM)**10**

<+> Behind a stunning **Wuthering Heights** cover by Glenn Fabry, this book just keeps on getting better. Balancing sickening racist violence with a touching romance loaded with an edgy, disaster-bound feel; Ennis and Dillon are doing their best work yet. But not for the squeamish. (RH) **10**

Icon 1 (Milestone; McDuffie & Bright + Gustovich) The most impressive Milestone debut so far, this first issue tells of an alien who finds himself on Earth - learning to accept his place in an African American community - and yet estranged from it because of his wealth. Complete with a wisecracking sidekick, Icon is a story to watch - weakened only by muddy and indistinct colouring. (RH) **8**

A 100-year-old Earth bound alien - turned successful lawyer is persuaded by a streetwise

teenager to fight crime in Dakota City, home of the Milestone heroes. That he doesn't need much persuading - and takes her on as his costumed assistant - requires some suspension of disbelief; but the series itself holds promise. (PCP) 5

Justice Society of America 10 <+ -> (Strazewski & Parobeck + Machlan) The JSA have run their course, and no longer seem to fit in the wider culture of the DC Universe. In this final issue of a fine run, the heroes fight for their continued existence. A shame to see a book that's such fun bite the dust so soon. (JF) 8

Kid Eternity 1 (Vertigo; Nocenti & Phillips) A very heavy first issue, overflowing with ideas, metaphors, religious symbolism and one-line gags. Unfortunately, there's a little *too* much to take in, as Eternity raises the dead to help bring about an immaculate conception - with the aim of moving humanity on a step... (RH) 6

An impressive debut for the undead hero. Nocenti's script is fast paced and clever, providing much to relish. The art is appropriately stylish and frenetic - conveying the atmosphere with gusto. (JF) 8

The Kid tries to raise humanity's consciousness by searching for potential angel breeders. A solid start for this regular run; Nocenti's mix of dry humour and subtle horror blends well with Phillips' consistently interesting artwork. (MG) 8

L.E.G.I.O.N '93 #52 <+> (Kitson & Waid, Kolins + Percy) This title benefits from slower-paced issues like this one in which two new plot threads are introduced to keep both L.E.G.I.O.N and the R.E.C.R.U.I.T.S busy for the next few months. The art is second rate, but Kitson returns to pencils next month. (RH) 7

Ms Tree Special (Collins & Beatty) Solid tale of oriental intrigue told with Collins' customary flair, that old fans can really sink their teeth into; although new readers are bound to be put off by the $3.95 price tag. (SM) 8

Sandman Mystery Theatre 3 <+ -> (Vertigo; Wagner & Davis) An unusual mix of the masked vigilante genre and F Scott Fitzgerald. This doesn't really work for me, the 1930s poor little rich kids characters are cliched and, though the torture scenes are genuinely disturbing, Davis's artwork makes everyone look overweight. (MG) 5

Sandman 49 <+ -> (Vertigo; Gaiman & Thompson + Locke) Morpheus gets blood on his hands in the concluding chapter of *Brief Lives*. Jill Thompson's final issue and an apt place to acknowledge her impressive run. Her characters have a bizarre, childlike appeal, an innocence and downright sweetness that seems wonderfully fresh in the era of the pneumatic body. (RH) 8

Sebastian O #1 (Vertigo; Morrison & Yeowell) An offbeat but amusing mix of Victorian England and SF technology provides the backdrop for Grant Morrison's long awaited new series about the hero whose concern for fashion is first and foremost. Highly original and, in places, truly outrageous, Morrison fans will love it. Others may be confused. (RH) 8

Fun, adventure and shady doings in Morrison's tale of a mysterious, villainous dandy in a mythical 19th century London. Graced by the clean and easy art of Steve Yeowell - and the best thing that Morrison's done for a long time. (SM) 9

In an alternative 1890s London, computer technology runs amok. Escaping from an asylum is the bizarre Sebastian O, bent on revenge. Morrison's intricate story is sometimes hindered by unnecessary asides, but Yeowell's art is as crisp and accomplished as ever. (JF) 8

A promising start to this tale of a psychotic dandy in a Victorian age that never was. It's nice to read something by Morrison that doesn't sacrifice storytelling for the sake of self-indulgent surrealism. (MG) 7

Shade, the Changing Man 35 <+ -> (Vertigo; Milligan & Bachalo + Bryant) Kathy meets the angels while Shade visits Brian Juno's Garden of Pain. A fascinating book, with imaginative plotting and a sombre script. Bachalo's artwork really *is* vertiginous. (RH) 9

<-> While the peerless Chris Bachalo goes from strength to incredible strength, writer Pete Milligan seems to be floundering and somewhat lacking in direction - though that's probably to be expected after having produced so many brilliant issues over the past three years. (SM) 7

<+> Angel torturing (not something we should try at home) is one of the many fascinating elements here. It looks like the new, feral Shade is here to stay, a welcome relief from the self pitying irritant he had become. (MG) 7

Spectre 6 <+ -> (Ostrander & Mandrake) The Spectre tackles what seems currently to be a popular theme in comics - the increased problem of gun violence among American teenagers. Ostrander manages to avoid bandwagonism, mainly due to Mandrake's impressive visuals. The book is still *lacking* something, though. (RH) 6

<+ -> In the aftermath of events in the last issue, the Spectre once again becomes a demon of vengeance and begins to question his own origins and mission. The creative team continue with excellent work with developed characters and intense, powerful art. (JF) 9

Swamp Thing 131 <+ -> (Vertigo; Collins & Eaton + DeMulder) After meeting some living folk legends,

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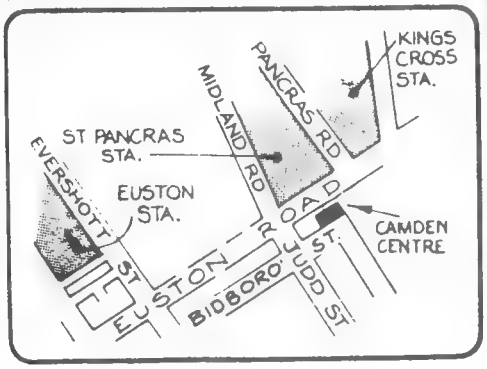

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Swamp Thing gets better and returns home, much changed, to Abby. Another slow issue, with the new Swamp Thing visualisation looking rather crude - except on Charles Vess's lovely cover. (RH) 5

<+ -> The neglected sleeper of the Vertigo line, in that not many people seem to realise that Nancy Collins is so fine a storyteller. With the lovely storybook illustrations of the Eaton-DeMulder team, this book is better than it ever was. (SM) 9

<-> Swamp Thing finally purges his toxicity - thanks to some rather twee elves - and receives a less than warm welcome home. Not as good as recent issues have been; hopefully this is just a blip and not a loss of the form the title's recently regained. (MG) 6

Wonder Woman 74 <+> (Messner-Loebs & Moder + Parks) Diana - as private investigator - gets involved in a bizarre case of a possessive and obsessed family. Messner-Loebs' character work is nicely observed and Moder's art, cute. A laid back, take it easy, Sunday afternoon sort of comic book. (RH) 7

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man Annual 27 (J C Harris & Lyle + Hanna) A so-so tale introducing the new computerised superhero, Annex. Lightweight and unoriginal, with passable artwork, this annual's reliance on blinding cliches is its main weakness; the most cringeworthy to be found on the last page, when Spider-Man says, "I'm sure we haven't heard the last from... ANNEX!". Please. (RH) 5

Amazing Spider-Man 377 <+ -> (Michelinie & Grant, Johnson + Emberlin) Another enjoyable issue, featuring the origin of Styx & Stone, along with Spider-Man's latest battle with Dr Wertham (honest!). Once more it is Steven Grant's script that raises this above the average, providing Spider-Man with some of his best one liners in a long time. (RH) 8

Avengers 362 <+> (Harras & Purcell + Fredericks) The otherworldly Gatherers arrive, intent on the Avengers' destruction. This title has been steadily improving for months, as Harras does his best work to date - linking together clues and story elements from way back. This issue is less impressive as a result of the guest art team's work, but they can't stop the rising momentum of the storytelling. (JF) 9

Cable 1 (Nicieza & Thibert) An entertaining interlude, with plenty of information on Cable's life and times a thousand years hence. Nicieza is typically long winded and enjoys his techno-babble a bit too much, but Thibert provides a rich seam of visual energy. (JF) 7

Doom 2099 #5 <+ -> (J F Moore & Broderick + Nyberg) An exciting journey *into* Doom's armour - via virtual reality - to battle a freakish computer virus called Fever. Imaginative as always, with Broderick's clear and detailed artwork. (RH) 7

Excalibur 65 (Davis & Farmer) <++> Technically, a triumph. Excellent pacing allows writer-artist Alan Davis to tie-up a mass of plot threads from previous issues. And behind it all shines through a rather naive yet heartening belief in honesty and courage. (FPB) 10

Groo 101 <-> (Epic; Aragones and Evanier) Groo journeys to a land where nobody hates him. A Columbus satire ensues, with Groo helping the natives defeat the conquering army from across the sea. Humour with something serious to say. (RH) 8

Incredible Hulk 405 <+> (David & Frank + Smith) Things boil over at Pantheon HQ when Ajax catches Achilles and Atlanta messing the sheets. The Hulk finally gets to do something in his new role as Pantheon leader and a battle royale follows. This book shows signs of improvement after a few dull months. (RH) 7

<+ -> A reasonably quiet issue as this title goes, with time to examine the lives of the Hulk and his supporting cast. David's script is as playfully refreshing as ever, while the artwork is crisp, clean and well paced. (JF) 6

Incredible Hulk 406 <+ -> (David & Frank) A simply wonderful issue, happy ending and all as Marlo emerges from her catatonic state while Hulk swats around annoying Captain America. Gary Frank's pencils have gotten so good as to make one forget Dale what's-his-name. (SM) 10

Punisher 2099 4 <+ -> (Mills, Skinner & Morgan + Palmiotti) It's heroes' day in the future, but these heroes are not all they appear to be and need the help of a vigilante anti-hero... The script is bleak - but at least involves more than just a catalogue of killing methods - and the art adequate. (JF) 7

Silver Surfer 80 <+ -> (Marz & Lim + Christopher) While the Surfer contemplates his own history, two former heads of Galactus battle for supremacy. Lim has always done fine work with this title, and here his pacey style serves its purpose well. Marz's script proves as enjoyable as ever. (JF) 7

Spectacular Spider-Man 200 <+> (DeMatteis & Buscema) At last, a comic that's worthy of its holografx card cover and price hike. A truly special issue, dealing with the last days of Harry Osborn, the Green Goblin. For anyone who remembers the classic *Death of Gwen Stacy*, this issue is a must: tense, exciting and powerfully told. A modern classic. (RH) 10

Spider-Man Unlimited 1 (DeFalco & Lim + Sanders III; Barr & Ingham) Just what the world needs, another Spider-Man title. Not only is there the substandard first part of *Maximum Carnage*, but the backup features another alternative timeline I'm-not-dreaming-oh-yes-I-am durge of

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which the only redeeming element is pleasing visualisation from Bingham. (JF) 3

Spider-Man 34 <+ -> (S Grant & McLeod + Weeks) Steven Grant continues proving himself the best Spider-Man scripter (excepting J M DeMatteis) in a long time. Hilarious one liners mixed with an explosive finale to the hero's battle with the Punisher and the Master of Vengeance. Gorgeous Bob McLeod artwork, too. (RH) 8

Spider-Man Unlimited 1 (DeFalco & Lim + Sanders III) And so begins the *Maximum Carnage* crossover, with a giant-sized, giant-priced, glossy-paged ...er, well - (delete expletive). Even Spider-Man fans like myself should have some trouble finding anything of interest in this. Carnage, an excessively violent psycho who uses wonderfully bad lines like, "Killing is what I do," escapes from prison and goes on to prove his statement. Lim's art is unimaginative; DeFalco's script is ...er, what was that expletive, again? (RH) 1

Thor 462 <+ -> (Marz & Starlin, Zick + DeCarlo) Thor continues his descent into madness as his journey through the stars progresses. The artwork here is reminiscent of Kirby but sometimes crosses the line between being stylised and being simply terrible. A matter of personal taste. (JF) 8

Venom 4 <-> (Michelinie & Lim, DeLaRosa, Milgrom) The story drags on with the creation of several symbiotes similar to our villain. Standard melodrama, with uninspired art. (JF) 4

Web of Spider-Man 100 <+ -> (Kavanagh & Savuik + Rubinstein) Another 'special' cover stuffed with detritus. Spider-Man creates his first suit of 'Spider-Armour' - a ridiculous premise - to fight a bunch of robot (and may as well be robot) bad guys. Plus another appearance of Spawn rip-off, Nightwatch. Stupid. (RH) 1

X-Men Unlimited 1 (Lobdell & Bachalo) Surprise, surprise... an outstanding **X-Men** issue, as Storm, Cyclops and Professor X battle with the elements - as well as with the obligatory super villain - though the focus is on character and personality (which is what made Marvel so good to begin with). Maestro Chris Bachalo here sacrifices some freedom to work within the less imaginative confines of the Marvel house style, but the results are still stunning enough to make you wish that every Marvel comic looked as good. (SM) 9

X-Men 20 <+> (Nicieza & Kubert) While Kubert's art is still bold and dynamic here, Nicieza finally unveils a long suspected 'secret'. Although the revelation isn't one as such, it does raise questions which will no doubt fuel many issues to come. (JF) 6

INDEPENDENTS

Aliens: Colonial Marines 4 <+> (Dark Horse; Puckett & Nunis, Parks + Pallot) A new creative team ushers in a significantly better book. As the marines go on a recon of an alien planet, they discover a new breed of Alien. Fine script, with detailed artwork. (JF) 8

Army of Darkness 2 <+ -> (Dark Horse; Raimi & Bolton) Bolton's incredible cinematic images provide (as ever) a rare treat. Even if the narrative seems at times over-long, it doesn't detract from the overall storytelling. (JF) 8

Black Dogs 1 (Fantagraphics; Ho Che Anderson) Powerful and engrossing slice of life prelude to the forthcoming Martin Luther King comic, with a black couple at opposite ends of the moral and philosophical spectrum in the wake of the Los Angeles riots; strikingly drawn by Anderson, with an imaginative colour assist by Roberta Gregory. (SM) 9

Blue Lily 1 (of 4; Dark Horse; McKie) A futuristic approach using a robot in place of the hard boiled private eye. Very heavy going in parts and certainly *not* a five minute read. (PCP) 6

Darker Image 1 (Image; Messner-Loebs, Keith, Liefeld, Choi & Lee) This anthology title introduces three protagonists: Keith's The Maxx (already seen in his own title); Liefeld's Lobo clone, Bloodwulf and Lee's Deathblow (aka Rambo). All over the top, over stylised, ridiculous characters inhabiting unlikely lands. And it's great fun. The Maxx stands out as the better written of the three, with Lee's Deathblow bearing an uncanny resemblance - or is it an homage to - Frank Miller's **Sin City**. Better than expected. (JF) 9

Donald Duck Adventures 36 (Disney; Barks) <+-> "The Titanic Ants": a comparitively off-day for the duck-master as the slapstick the insects wreak on a millionaires' picnic is not complimented except by a rather tired daffy scientist explanation. Still first class though. (FPB) 8

Donald Duck Adventures 37 (Disney; Rosa, Van Horn, Barks) <+> Don Rosa redeems his recent fall into Political Correctness witrh a perfect bit of space comedy with great use of scientific fact. Van Horn fits in a lot of deranged slapstick in telling how Donald tries to control his temper. Two Carl Barks one-pagers and a great cover round off a classy package. (FPB) 9

Dracula: Vlad the Impaler 1 (Topps; Thomas & Maroto) Coming to this title with low expectations, I was most impressed with its beautiful artwork. Thomas gives a routine "dramatisation of a true story" rendition of the legend, but it's the flowing, European style of Maroto that makes this such a treat. (JF) 8

Eightball 10 (Fantagraphics; Clowes) Clowes' wilfully unpleasant style -- unlike other *alternative* artists -- isn't merely an act of egotism, but instead the means of conveying grim and objective truths

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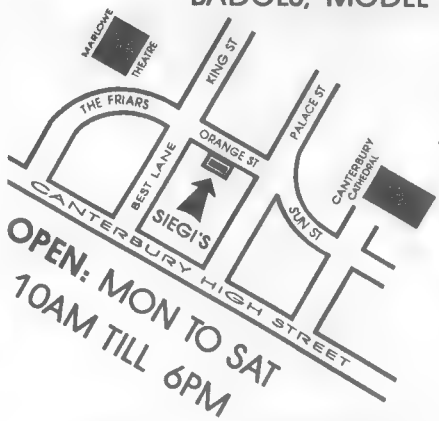

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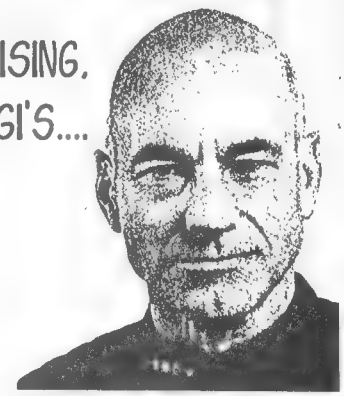

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about modern mainly American experiences. A dark but necessary series, deeply US and yet very accessible. (FPB) 9

Enchanter 3 (Express Press; Chin & Dringenberg) <+> Xantharn comes more into focus, although he seems to suffer from Dracula's desease: give your villain every nasty trait there is, even if mutually incompatable, such as vampiric night scourge and world conqueror. Meanwhile the elves run their necks into a noose. Classic fantasy. (FPB) 9

Eternal Warrior 11 (Valiant; Moretti & Van Hook, Moretti + Dixon) Gilad takes on neo-Nazis to retrieve a heirloom stolen during World War II. Wooden; with a plot heavy on action and low on subtlety. (PCP) 3

Femforce Up Close 4 (AC; Count & Black, Count, Ayers + Hunt) The search for a serial killer allows time for She-Cat to reflect on her origins. Routine. (PCP) 3

Femforce 57 (AC; Black & Heike + Gorby) Capricorn's scheme to subjugate Earth crumbles with the return of Nightveil. The demon angle follows familiar tracks and the inevitable quick fix solution. Now produced in colour. (PCP) 5

Grendel: War Child 9 <+ -> (Dark Horse; Wagner & McKeown + Henderson, Sheldon) As this brilliant, filmic series heads towards its conclusion, Wagner steams on with political manoeverings and frenetic action sequences. Art is, as ever, bright and crisp. (JF) 8

Gyro Gearloose 1 (Gladstone; Barks) Carl Barks is almost unique in being able to produce both powerful long stories and great little gags. This collection features the latter, with often memorable four-pagers featuring his screwloose inventor parrot. Splendid. (FPB) 10

Harbinger 18 (Valiant; Fontenot & Simpson + Mayo) Another super-powered teen pops out of the woodwork to warn the team of dangers to come. Nice visuals, but the series is going nowhere. (PCP) 3

Homage Studios Swimsuit Special (Image; various) Anyone who's ever doubted that comics these days are becoming little more than stroke material for pubescents of all ages need only glimpse at the biological deformities herein. Despite some lovely drawings by the likes of Joe Chiodo, Scott Williams, Scott Clark and Adam Hughes, most of this stuff is silly and juvenile. And if Jim Lee's not trying to take the mickey with his ridiculous *Farenheit*, then he's in dire need of a good Freudian therapist. Prospective buyers would get better value for their money if they simply put the price of purchase towards a copy of **Playboy** or **Penthouse**. (SM) 4

Khe Sanh 1 (Apple; Lomax) Don Lomax's careful yet personal account of the Viet Nam war continues. If I could find any fault with this excellent historical piece, it would be that despite the narration's ground-level viewpoint, Lomax's marines are drawn too oddly to be sympathetic, their faces looking especially weird. (FPB) 8

League of Champions 8 (Heroic; Mallonee + Vogel & Propst) <+> Surprisingly good conclusion to *The Morrigan Wars*, a serial that had spent most of its long duration spluttering. Some intriguing mystery about Icicle and a satisfyingly well-drawn climax. (FPB) 7

Legends of the Larian Book 2: The Cutting Edge (Lion; Murray & Anderson) The pace quickens dramatically from **Book 1**, but the sudden appearance of characters in different locations makes one wish for additional introductory pages. Politics and love take a back seat to the war on hand this time, and Anderson's art stands up to the change admirably. The unnamed demon in the book's final panel, threatening revenge in a manner too similar to that in **Book 1** merely adds to the confusion. Such ploys work in monthly titles, but not in books of this nature. (PB) 7

The Maxx 1 (Image; Kieth & Loebs, Kieth + Sinclair) A cute looking monster ends up in jail and suffers Australian outback flashbacks. Intelligent script - an oddity for Image - but spoiled by being released prior to its Darker Image prelude. One to watch. (PCP) 7

Naughty Bits 8 <- -> (Fantagraphics; Roberta Gregory) Disappointing issue, short on humour and satire and long on preaching. Nobody likes someone else's politics shoved down their throat, even if they agree with them. Hopefully now that she's gotten this one out of her system, Gregory will climb down off her soapbox next issue and return to her normal, brilliant form. (SM) 5

Nausicaa Part Three #3 (Viz; Hayao Miyazaki) <+> The end has come: Kushana faces the Emperor in the midst of runs, Nausicaa takes her last ride, while Kingdom's founder and men die. The last and worst tragedy passing off quietly, without witnesses. 'Superb, comparable only with itself. A total masterpiece. (FPB) 10

Necroscope 4 <-> (Malibu; Powell & Gross) Continuing the gruesome adaptation of Brian Lumley's novel. Necromancer's busy torturing the dead and the only hope lies with Necromancer. Politics and the undead in a finely painted, unusual tale... (JF) 7

Next Men 13 <+ -> (Dark Horse; Byrne) The revelation of Nathan and Jazz's Soviet union splits the Next Men team in half. Meanwhile, in a beautifully illustrated sequence, Thomas Kirkland (from Byrne's **2112** graphic novel) comes back in time to stop Sathanas. Tense and thought provoking. (RH) 9

1963 Book 1: Mystery Incorporated (Image; A Moore & Veitch + Gibbons) **Mystery Incorporated**, while bearing a strong resemblance to **Fantastic Four**, probably owes more to

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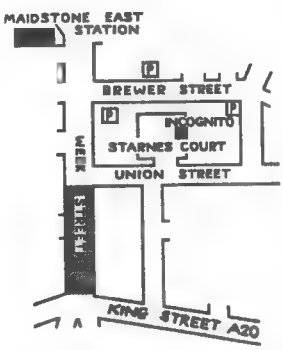

Kirby's earlier **Challengers of the Unknown** in its plot resolution. Yes, you'll believe it was published way back when, but whether that's the kind of recommendation kids today want to hear remains to be seen. (PB) 8

A perfect homage to **Fantastic Four**, featuring an excellently conceived (and fun) script. The visuals are simple and effective and the whole is packaged in a 1960s style comic book, complete with letters, fake ads and - best of all - Al's Ampitheater. Must be seen to be believed. (JF) 10

1963 Book 1 recreates the feel of an early Marvel comic perfectly - and is its downfall. From a 1990s perspective, the two-dimensional characters and linear plot grate, rather than invoking the simplistic charm Moore was (presumably) aiming for. (MG) 4

Great fun for the over-30s, though most Image buyers will doubtless be baffled. Gibbons' inks smooth the entire issue out while Moore once more displays his greatest strengths, working with existing concepts. While sales may prove disappointing by Image standards, it's a must-buy for Silver Age crumblies. Let's hope the joke doesn't wear thin across the next five issues. (DGS) 9

There's an intruder in Mystery Mile and one of the Famous Four gets kidnapped. An absolute Marvel, apart from the text pages and Moore's achilles' heel, a weak plot. Veitch's art is particularly evocative. (FPB) 9

Not Quite Dead 1 (Rip Off Press; Shelton/Pic) Shelton's first new series in ages looks great, but contains the same old anecdotes about a loser rock band that you've read too many times before. Only the final story, of a gig for a loony right wing party, displays the sharp satire and skilful story handling you'd expect. (MK) 5

Satan's Six 1 (Topps; Kirby + Isabella & Cleary + Gill; Lash & Ditko) Kirby's first outing in years, with six heroes so stupid even Hell won't have them, is so monumentally silly it becomes an instant camp classic. Isabella goes along with the fun, but who on earth thought of putting Cleary in with King Kirby? (FPB) 6

Sex Warrior 1 (of 2; Dark Horse; Mills & Skinner, McKone) Interesting, intriguing idea as the lady of the title displays some unusual fighting methods - and Mike McKone gives a lesson in dynamics and composition. One only wonders if two issues will really be enough to develop the story to its full potential. (SM) 8

Shadowhawk 4 <-> (Image; Valentino) A disappointing conclusion to Image's poorest mini-series. The Savage Dragon makes a guest appearance in what is obviously an attempt to inject some interest, foiled by the impoverished script writing and amateurish art. My bet is that the hero's a woman, it would be in keeping with their desperation to evoke a reader reaction. (JF) 1

Spawn 9 <+> (Image; Gaiman & McFarlane) Maybe I expected too much from Neil Gaiman's **Spawn** story, but this is a real disappointment. Despite some nice jokes and a better explanation of Spawn's history than we've seen before, the actual plot here seems very rushed, and fashioned simply to set up Dave Sim's turn, next month... (RH) 6

<+> Even in comparison with Alan Moore's issue (#8), this issue is a quantum leap for the character, with some much needed depth and background - and must be a peak in its own genre. (JF)10

Stormwatch 1 (Choi, Lee & Clark + Scott) Lee's story of a sanctioned strike force proves better than anticipated. The artwork focuses on typically dynamic poses, but it's nevertheless attractive. The story, too, is nothing new, but adequately handled. (JF) 6

Uncle Scrooge 278 (Disney; Barks) <+++> A classic, even by Carl Barks' exacting standards, as the ultimate tightwad throws away his fortune to save an heroic dog. Clockwork potting, lovely gags, emotion and Barks art - who can ask for more? (FPB) 10

Wildstar 1 (Image; Gordon & Ordway) Despite the offputting blood spatter cover, the DC boys' first Image venture looks very encouraging. There's enough superhero action stuff to keep normal Image fans happy, but the plot is nicely paced, suspenseful and intriguing; the script resists cliches and the art tells the story - and isn't just a series of posters! (RH) 8

An impressive debut as symbiote soldiers are transmuted to contemporary events to change history. Ordway's art is always dynamic, but the storyline here is confused. However, with the glimpses allowed of future plotlines it looks as if it might be worth sticking with. (JF) 8

UK TITLES

Black Axe 2 <+ -> (Marvel UK; Jowett & Perryman + Ramos) The quirky art on this title is bound to put many off, but in fact it's very rewarding once you get into it. As the hero travels to Japan the story proves equally entertaining, with some new slants on the immortal assassin theme. (JF) 8

The Cartoonist 1 (The Cartoonist; anthology) A fortnightly broadsheet newspaper containing nothing but cartoons could be a brilliant idea, given even a few brilliant cartoonists as sharp and subtle as Low or Illingworth. Unfortunately, behind Nicholas Riddell's excellent cover there's far too much substandard, dull witted work. At this price it'll never last unless the hacks are replaced - but who's going to replace them, and with whom? (MK) 2

Codename: Genetix 3 (Marvel UK; various) In the Savage Land, Wolverine joins with genetically altered kids to fight dinosaurs. A renegade creation, and quite

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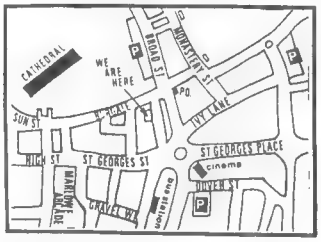

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possibly the worst colouring job in comicdom. (PB) 0

Dark Angel 9 (Marvel UK; Jaye & Barras) Several plots intermingle, with a lot of action. Fans of the series will enjoy it. X-Men fans will buy it because of their guest appearance. (PB) 4

Knights of the Pendragon 10 (Marvel UK; Abnett & Tomlinson + Clark) Featuring the return of Baron Blood, in a decent adventurous romp. Terry Clark shows promise, his influences apparently beyond those purely fashionable. (PB) 6

Lords of Misrule 1 (Atomeka; Tomlinson & Erskine) An artificial and highly designed tale of Cumbrian horrors, with plot twists dictated not by internal necessity, but by Tomlinson's preconceived points. Erskine's art however is magnificent, being both clean and creepy at the same time. (FPB) 6

Monoshock (Savoy; Britton & Guidio, Coulthart) Another brilliant satire from Savoy, once again manipulating elements of 1930s pop culture to underline the traditional nature of British prejudice. Britton's grasp of the satirical force of icons is unparalleled, but his expectations of popular cultural awareness may be pitched too high. (MK) 9

Motormouth & Killpower 10 (Marvel UK; Marks & Mendoza) In what reads like a protracted storyline (and probably is - since the title is to fold), the title's central characters finish up in a fantasy-cum sword and sorcery world where nothing comes as any great surprise - to the reader, at least. (PB) 4

Motormouth & Killpower 11 (Dakin & Barber + Mendoza) Quite a fun future adventure with the duo having to locate and destroy robotic vampires, unfortunately spoiled by the convoluted nature of the revelation that MyS-TECH created them. (PB) 5

Shadow-Riders 1 (Marvel UK; Freeman, B Williamson & Dearsley) Another addition to Marvel UK's exponentially increasing line has to star all the current favourites like Death's Head and Cable but does have merits of its own. The story revolves around vengeance-driven bikers and is visualised in an unusual, occasionally offbeat but interesting style. (JF) 6

Overkill 26 (Marvel UK; various) Usual bombardment of psychopaths fighting X-Men, then each saying that they're "ever so sorry", plus some moody art from Richard Rayner on Dark Angel, although he still relies on photo reference too much. (PB) 4

Warheads 10 (Marvel UK; Vince & Cruz + Riggs) Warheads go to hell in a story over-filled with technical jargon. (PB) 2

2000 AD 829 (Fleetway Editions; various) The difference between Brett Ewins's art on *Bad Company* (convincingly dialogued by Milligan) and *Kelly's Eye* (loosely written by the usually worthwhile McKenzie) shows the latter must be a rush job. Paul Marshall's art on *Firekind* is delicately detailed, pretty even, but the fantasy story says nothing new, as yet. (PB) 7

2000 AD 830 <++> (Fleetway Editions; various) Whether it's due to the Spring relaunch or Fleetway getting fed up with Marvel UK's press coverage, this comic is looking - and reading - good. For the most part, **2000 AD** has sworn off its previous attempt to transmute itself into a mature comic (whatever that may be) and is delivering well constructed adventures. (PB) 8

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Battleground 2 (£1.50 from A Brewer, 58 Kingsley Court, Aylesbury Close, Salford M5 4ER) With remarkable improvement in all aspects of production and the longest, most intelligent letter column I've seen in a fanzine in years, this is a tremendous read. Anyone wanting to be actively involved in fandom should buy it immediately. (MK) 9

Greenhouse Warriors 2 (Dakin, Elliot; £1.95 from Phil Elliot, 2 Alexandra St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2TD) Dropped by Tundra UK after one issue, it's back to self-publishing for Dakin and Elliot's wry tale of vegetable superheroes. Perhaps the fact that this issue is full of character studies and short on carnage had something to do with it... Incidentally, there's been no drop in production standards. (MK) 6

Head 1 (Head Productions; anthology; £2.25 [postal orders only] from BM Uplift, London WC1N 3XX) Sick of 'style bibles'? Try this glorious 92 page free for all of graphics, found text and collage. Packed with ideas and radiating deliberately chaotic enthusiasm, it makes **I-D** read - and *look* -like **The People's Friend.** (MK) 8

Kane 1 (Dancing Elephant Press; Grist; £1.80 from Dancing Elephant Press, 207 Marlcliffe Rd, Sheffield S6 4AH) A competently structured if cliched version of the maverick-cop-everyone-hates thriller. It's a pleasant change to see it depicted in Grist's restrained, shadowy "clear line" style but the plot's staleness is a big drawback (MK) 6

North By North-West 3 (anthology; £1.50 from Liverpool Cartoon Art Workshop, COLCC, Clarence St, Liverpool L3 5TP) The latest issue of the LCW's annual contains an extraordinary range of material and styles. Horror, sf, humour, autobiography and fantasy are all here, executed for the most part with individuality and confidence. An excellent collection and a bargain at the price. (MK) 9

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

The latest news, views and rumours in our ever-popular independent look at the hits, misses, prices, projects and people making comics news. Reported by the ever mysterious and controversial team of investigative diggers and delvers known to the world only as ITMA.

Valiant movers

COURTESY of an Image creator's public announcement at a recent US convention, the worst-kept secret in the industry was made totally public. Recently appointed Valiant figurehead Barry Windsor-Smith no longer wants to work exclusively for one company. With Barry never having been a desk-jockey or company man, this came as no surprise to close colleagues.

Turok and Roll

TUROK: Dinosaur Hunter finally hit the stands last month, creating a bemused look on the face of many customers, "not what I expected" was the general reaction.

But **Turok's** release still sparked a flurry of buying activity as dealers and fans alike attempted to stockpile a book which had no overrun on printing.

Shops from the south coast to Scotland reported high turnover and at a recent Manchester comic mart copies were on sale for £5 within half an hour of the book selling out at cover price.

This is all very good and profitable for the dealer, but the truth is, this book has Valiant's biggest print run to date (estimates put it at 900,000). It is far from "in short supply" in the USA, and in no way will ever find almost a million readers wanting to buy the copies, so expect the US glut to hit UK shores soon.

While the book promised having the industry's first "fully metallised cover" this turned out to be untrue, with only two metallised sections (on printed, one stuck on) surrounded by embossed card. But Valiant can breath a sigh of relief that there is (apparently) no US equivalent to the Trade Descriptions Act, so they're not likely to have to accept returns of the grossly over-ordered title.

Turok has caused a further sticky situation for many dealers and fans who have bought bulk copies. The glue which holds the chromium picture plate to the cover had a tendency to ooze out from under the picture when being stacked by the printers, resulting in *Movers* receiving reports from fans and dealers of copies becoming stuck together. Time for a Research and Development department, guys?

Yet more Valiant

AFTER successfully steering **Archer and Armstrong** through 11 of its first twelve issues, Barry Windsor Smith is moving onto new ideas; most people have heard about **Ivar: Time Warrior** his third of the immortal brothers. But he is also working on a project with Bob Layton that involves an alien living on Earth and coming to understand how life works by fighting what it sees as crime.

Our New England IMTite tells us that US prices for Barry's Valiant work are rising at astronomical speeds, the most notable being **Solar** #12 at $45, **Magnus** #12 at $70 and the confusing **Archer & Armstrong - Eternal Warrior** #8 already going for $15.

All four Superman

WHO would have believed after over fifty years **Superman** should see off the Valiant, Image and Marvel "new kids" and reign supreme once again? The return of the Man of Steel has set DC firmly back on track and the intriguing "return" serial looks set to keep Superman high in the ratings for some months to come.

A word of warning however about the removable translucent film over the cover of **Adventures of Superman** #500. Guess what? It doesn't stick down properly when peeled back and you risk damaging your comic if you remove it!

Under a Watchful Eye

AFTER last month's *MediaFile* spotlighted the visit to a Birmingham comic mart of the local trading standards office, it was the Leicester comic mart's turn to go under public scrutiny in April. A journalist, saying he worked for a local newspaper, asked if he could have a look around the mart.

The reporter began by trying to photograph a three year old girl with a copy of the mature-reader labelled **Sebastion O**, and then set to irritating dealers with dubious questions about "adult" comics. When approached by the organiser's representative, he made a hasty retreat.

What is fast happening is that because of the interest generated by comics in the media, traders (the most accessible face of the industry) are going to be subjected to more scrutiny. Perhaps it is time that the dealer started thinking what he should and shouldn't sell, instead of potentially endangering his and others businesses by cashing in on the quick money market by carrying material that established retailers generally avoid.

Cymru Image

RESTORING the faith in many would-be creators, Cardiff-based Dafydd Wyn sent an on-spec **WildC.A.T.S** storyline to California's Image Comics ... and received a reply! Not just a reply, but a request from Brandon Choi for the rest of the story.

Yet more surprising, Dafydd was paid before publication (unlike most publishers' norm) and when asked if it was a good fee, the freelance tv associate producer told

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Movers & Shakers, "Well, it means that I don't need to work for the next six months."

This will be Dafydd's first published comics work, earning him the *story and co-scripter* credit for the **WildC.A.T.S.** trilogy.

Viva BBC-2

STEALING two story-ettes from Sarah Bolesworth's *Mediafile*, it's nice to see our invariably ridiculed medium finally gaining acceptance. Dave Gibbons could be heard (but not seen) on BBC-2 recently, doing a voice-over critique of a Roy Lichtenstein piece in the *Talking Pictures* series, and, yes, he was somewhat disparaging.

Elsewhere, but still related to BBC-2, while fans have often attempted to put comic strips into an historical frame context by referring to the Bayeux Tapestry as an early example, **The Independent on Sunday** (May 9) simply described a 45-minute BBC-2 documentary on said tapestry in its listings as "Clive Anderson reads a medieval strip cartoon."

On the up

THE recession does appear to be finally over in the eyes and pockets of the comics retail industry. Though the fear still exists that the overkill of new launches for summer will create major problems for publishers, distributors and traders, there's been a sense of optimism over the last month as many retailers' takes have shot up (beyond the increase in new titles issued).

Early May's Comicbook Marketplace at London's Royal National Hotel brought a record turnout of buyers, resulting in solid takes for almost all dealers present. Many now consider this new venue to have usurped the Camden mart's crown as top mart, rivalling the old Horticultural Hall events.

Premium cover

FOLLOWING a record year's worth of comic retailers insurance claims against fire, theft and flood, more details continue to come to light.

Last issue we reported on a home counties shop claiming against £3,000 worth of damaged stock (following leaky overhead central heating) and then offering £50 to buy the stock back from the loss assessors. Having now seen the stock list, what appeared to be a derisory offer suddenly seems more attractive. The leak had managed to avoid any hot titles and, almost without exception, damaged only dust-gathering dead stock, with almost 20% of the claim being for old British Marvel reprints which everyone else usually throws away or donates to local hospital children's wards.

Fortunately, for the insurers who accepted the retailer's exaggerated claim, the policy failed to cover the whole £3,000, so a more realistic settlement was reached.

Welcome to reality

A RECENT letter from Leeds alleges comic shop fraud "in a northern city". The writer explains, "*Upon visiting a shop which had recently been broken into, I was surprised to see that nothing -- visibly -- had changed. I assumed only a few valuable items had been taken.*

"*So you can imagine my surprise to hear the owner telling his insurers over the phone that over £5000 worth of stock had been stolen.*

"*Had such an amount gone, the shop would have been virtually empty, but all the expensive items (**Sandman, Cerebus, New Mutants,** etc) were still there.*

"*For a shop which sells a maximum of only 25 **X-Men** a month, it seems to me the owner was making a last ditch attempt to save his business (which is already on the rocks) at the expense of other insurance payers and totally against the law.*"

Here at *Movers*, we look forward to reporting on what the next scams will be when the above two retailers' insurance money runs out.

More Marts

DESPITE the rising number of comic marts throughout the country, new events are starting all the time unperturbed by the established ones already existing.

A new Stevenage-based mart saw people queuing until 3.30 to get into the venue, and the few dealers who attended reported huge profits. It was reported that while nearly 1,000 people went through the doors at the new Hertfordshire show, new marts in Milton Keynes and Bristol also had far more people attend than the corresponding marts in London.

One reason could be the number of new dealers who don't frequent other marts. Unaware of the general trends that are often set at marts, they go along with much cheaper stock and therefore have a lot more bargains on offer.

More P-V-C Tales

HATS OFF to Marvel director Lou Bank for admitting that the pre-bagged comics are only good for holding so-called "giveaway" items. But some fans are now pointing out that the first bagged comic Marvel (**Spider-Man** #1) had absolutely no trading card, poster or whatever in it.

Interestingly enough, in the back of June cover dated DC titles, the bullpen offer the following safety tip: *When buying polybagged comics, be advised that failure to open them will eventually result in a "collectors item" bag of **dust!***

Perhaps ardent investors should consider taking the comic out of the bag and putting the comic in one acid free comic bag and the bag in another and then double bagging the bags. Peripherals suppliers will be only too happy to accommodate you.

Manga's Back

THANKS to the success of the Japanimation films presently available in this country on video, the one-time very popular manga comics are starting to make a comeback in comic shops. Many retailers have expressed a definite growth in interest since the release

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of the trend-setting **Akira** video.

Titles most rapidly rising include **Orion, Crying Freeman, Venus Wars** and titles from new Manga label *Sun Publishing*.

Comics such as **Akira, Appleseed** and **Lone Wolf and Cub** are also starting to command high back issue prices, being difficult to find. People who tried once and gave up should take a second look as many of the current crop of titles have far better graphics (and far weirder storylines) than the 1980s first wave.

Idle Image

ACCORDING to our Titan Distributors ITMite, Image is selling well in the UK, but in America where we are led to believe they can do no wrong, some of the distributors think they are heading for a fall. The reason is that while they generally avoid speculating on new titles and only buy to pre-sold orders, huge overstocks of Image titles had been bought and are not moving as quickly as hoped.

Still with Image, rumours have been flying around America that *Homage Studios* is close to breaking away and forming its own comics imprint. Jim Lee's co-writer and lawyer friend Brandon Choi is alleged to have been looking at the legal situation and seeing if it is at all possible to launch **Homage Comics** in the coming year. Apparently some of the Homage boys are not pleased with the adverse publicity that Rob Liefeld has been bringing the Image group, and that the new publishing management has failed to instigate a strong publicity front and, unlike the original Malibu management, has not supplied distributors and retailers with any promotional material.

When approached, a Homage spokesperson did not deny the rumour outright, but instead briskly answered "no comment".

Rob Liefeld's continued snubs and bad press was only heightened by Marvel recently in a bullpen bulletins page where they were quite magnanimous about Jim Lee and Marc Silvestri, but referred to Liefeld as the guy who appeared in a Jeans advert and once worked with Fabian (Nicieza).

Still talking Image, if you want a really hot tip about this summer's **Vanguard** series by new writer Gary Carlson, then check out the **Berserker** mini series from Caliber's superhero imprint *Gauntlet Comics*, which features the first appearance of the characters due to explode out of the back of Erik Larsen's **Savage Dragon v Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** crossover in July. Always on the look out for new talent, Larsen signed up Carlson, artist Tomm Coker and inker Jim Sinclair III without even seeing the debut issue of the Caliber title.

Mutant Merry-go-round

THE art teams are to shuffle about on Marvel's X books. Adam Kubert comes on board to handle **Wolverine** from #75. Joe Madureira is to take over the art chores on **Excalibur** after commitments to his **Deadpool** mini series are over. Andy Kubert is reported to be moving onto **Cable**, while he will be replaced by Greg Capullo on **X-Men.** Thibert's absence from Cable could indicate another Marvel defection, as his work has recently been seen on both Image and Valiant promotion material. Although Joe Quesada's name remains attached to **X-Factor,** for issues 88, 89 and 90 he only pencilled the first half of the stories and for issue 91 only rough layouts on two thirds of the story. Could the end be in sight?

No change on the writers, although another rumour is that Simon Furman (recently of **Alpha Flight**) may be set to replace Scott Lobdell on **Excalibur**.

Jim Starlin is to write a follow up story to his **X-Factor Special** from a couple of years ago. Scheduled to appear in for **X-Men Unlimited,** it will tell of Hank (Beast) McCoy's second meeting with the vampire like creature that almost stole his life as well as his heart last time round.

Ultimate Collecting

AMERICAN comic collector Sherman Benning recently put his collection of "comic book advertisement merchandise" up for auction. It included; X-ray specs, pencil trolls, diplomas for selling seeds, a full collection of **Foom,** records, books and three packets of sea monkeys; which experts have assured the auctioneers should still be likely to hatch and live, despite it being 22 years since their purchase!

Marvel shakers

HOT titles from most publishers right now are relatively easy to predict. DC has more than its share with the *Knightfall* story arc drawing attention to **Vengeance of Bane** and the **Sword of Azrael** mini, plus **Death, Mercy** and **Sandman Mystery Theatre** for its Vertigo imprint.

Valiant titles continuing to rise include all (low print run) pre-*Unity* comics and first appearances of just about everyone. But Marvel is the one to provide the surprise. While anniversary and enhanced cover books continue to be hoarded, **Ren and Stimpy** has proved in such demand that #1 has had three printings, while both issues 2 and 3 have each gone into second editions. Whether *Sky*'s broadcasting of the adult animated tv series will create a demand in the Uk remains to be seen.

Tipped as a potential Marvel mover is **War Machine.** The character's appearances in **Iron Man 281-291** should soon start moving copies when people hear about his solo series currently being planned. Courtesy of his own new **Thunderstrike** title, Eric Masterson's key appearances in **Thor #391, 432, 433** and **460** may account for these issues fast becoming scarce.

A Dark Horse title investors may wish to check out is **Dark Horse Comics #7-9.** With the popularity of the company's **Star Wars: Dark Empire** mini, these three issues are also on the move, thanks to their *Tales of the Jedi* serial. ■

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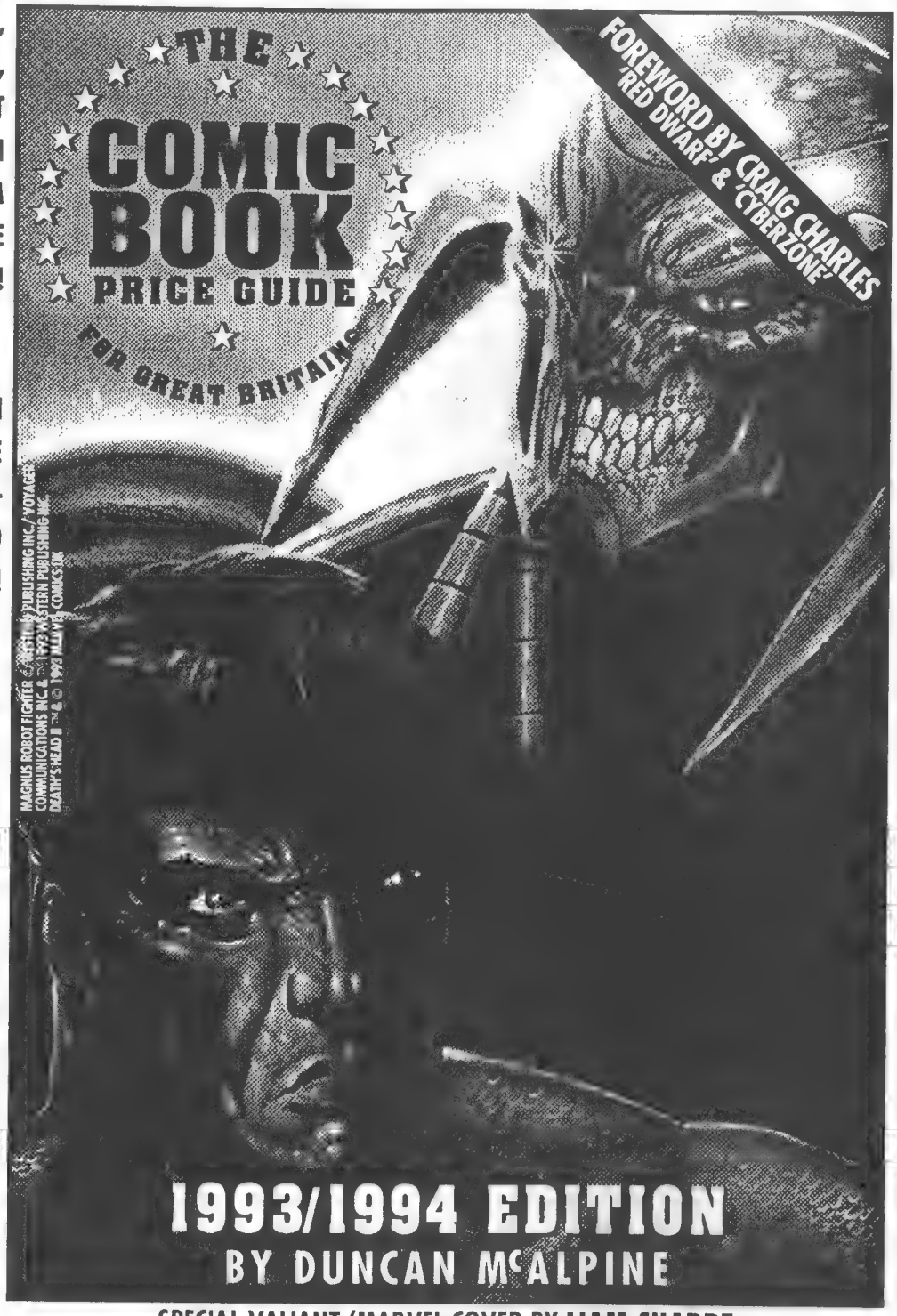

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LETTERS

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Comics International Letters, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

With all the distractions of this last month, it's something of a surprise to get this issue out on time. As well as the annual Glasgow Comic Art Convention, last month saw the Diamond Open Day, a Titan Trade Meeting, Unification '93 and the Aliens Fan Club Convention. Whether the comics industry is your work or your hobby, such events as the above are crucial. Working in offices, shops or studios, comics people are invariably isolated. Meetings and events provide a vital opportunity for people of like minds to share their views and as such should be encouraged. Whether for pleasure or business, a live forum for ideas to be expressed encourages growth in all aspects of comics.

Derek G. Skinn / Editor

John Mason, 50A Gratton Road, London W14 OJX

I would like to follow up Joe W. Matthews letter (**Comics International #29**). I totally agree with what he says, the magazine would be totally perfect if it had more reviews and articles on writers and artists. But it would then have to be 128 pages each month.

Then, as well as much more news coverage, letters, comment pieces, classified ads, and reviews, you could include such extra things as interviews and features for comic buyers like myself who cannot afford glossy magazines like **Comic World**, or would rather spend such money on comics.

I love your magazine but it would be so complete if you took my advice. And, if the idea failed, you could always go back to the original style.

*Unfortunately, John, not everybody would want the same interviews or articles. **Comics International** was created to fulfil a need for news, reviews and opinions. There already exists a wide range of magazines covering articles and interviews.*

*One of the most pleasant comments we often receive is from people saying they read this magazine from cover to cover. Any extensive focus on specific creators or characters would involve increasing the editorial page count, which would mean a higher cover price (like **Comic World**), and you could easily find you would resent this if you weren't interested in that issue's particular interviews or articles.*

Think of us as a newspaper; cheap, informative and disposable. We'll leave the supplements to others!

Ian Ellis, 22 St Martins Ave, Pevesell, Plymouth PL3 4QS

I would like to further the comment made in *Movers & Shakers* (**Comics International #30**) concerning the cheap PVC used for sealed comics bags. They really can be dangerous to your comics' health.

After reading the report, I decided to check it out. Upon opening my copy of **X-Force #1** I found that a yellow stain had appeared on the front cover.

Suffice to say, the PVC bags are coming off and I'm putting the comics in the trusty acid-free bags in future.

Throwing away the PVC bags may devalue the comics, but I don't want any other comics to suffer in the way my **X-Force #1** has.

Craig Earnshaw, 11 Grange View Gardens, Leeds LS17 8NL

At last it's official. Rob Liefeld has no imagination! The cover to his new release, **Bloodstrike #3** bears a striking resemblance to the cover of **Daredevil #217**. In fact the two covers are exactly the same in every detail including the buildings and the positions of the characters. The only difference appears to be the costumes!

How can Liefeld get away with this? If he is so good why can't he come up with his own ideas and not copy?

Jim Graham, 201 Wickham Chase West Wickham, Kent BR4 OBH

It seems to me that **Comics International** just ain't what it used to be. When I first started reading your periodical it was an efficient if rather irregular publication. You seemed more concerned with the comics industry as a money-making machine and its general philosophy taken as a whole than looking at "Who's popular this month". It was like a breath of fresh air.

Now, I'm afraid to say, I am less impressed. Part of the problem seems to be that now **Previews** is more commonly available, a major source of your own news has been exposed for all to see. **Comics International** comes out, at best, a fortnight after **Previews**, and so a lot of it is old news. This really was demonstrated when **Previews** started publishing John Byrne's *Aliens: Earth Angel*.

Admittedly confusing, at first sight it seemed a promotion for a new comic, but on closer inspection it was revealed that it was an exclusive **Previews** serialisation. So when **Comics International** proudly announced the 13-part mini-series **Aliens: Earth Angel**, you can imagine my concerns.

The *Comment* section of your magazine seems to get more interesting and diverse by the month, but apart from that, there is little to interest me.

The *Reviews* section is a shameful example of nobodies who think they can write better than anyone, just never tried; *Mediawatch* is incredibly monotonous - how come you are so ready to give us your opinion of radio/tv/newspaper comics-related features but never tell us of anything about to be transmitted? *ComicWatch* is often fairly interesting, but you appear to ask the same shops for their opinions month after month.

The other thing that really annoys me is when you publish an entire 64 page *Stateside Catalogue* and then claim that we, the reader, are getting 128 pages of magazine for no more money. And this from the magazine that is so quick to criticise comic gimmicks. What an advert of this magnitude means is that you are making more money out of me than last month, while I have to put up with a more bulky and inconvenient end product.

I do believe that printing someone else's catalogue and then including it in your page count has a somewhat detrimental effect on your image as the "Politically Correct Comic Paper". Not keeping the two separate implies that they aren't and that **Comics International** is little more than a mouthpiece for advertisers.

I think it's time **Comics International** did a little evolving in order to ensure its survival over the next few years. Otherwise it will get passed over by such items as **Wizard** and **Previews**.

Our first critical letter in over three years, so it appears almost in its entirety. I've always believed in publishing criticism, especially if it enables me to explain a few facts!

First, the news aspect: all of the trade receives identical news from most of the major publishers each month. We take from source, not each other. Some print it verbatim, while others follow up stories.

Sadly, few send out colour work, so in the case of Aliens: Earth Angel, *apologies are due to Diamond. We misread the **Previews** piece and, not hardly ever receiving information from Dark Horse, knew no better than to run the John Byrne colour visual with the wrong credits.*

To compensate for the lack of available colour promo material, we already have such creators as Dave Sim and Cam Kennedy lined up to produce new work exclusively for us.

But one of the major problems in comics which your letter underlines is its myopia. Creators and fans alike take far too much for granted. In this case, just because another magazine runs a news story first doesn't mean no one else should cover it. Our readership may overlap (or clash) with several others, but it also has its own audience. Whether through subscribers, newsstands, or groups like the Cartoonist Club of Great Britain, London and Liverpool's cartoon art courses or the Comic Creators Guild, we reach a different audience to titles only on sale in the 150 UK comic shops.

***Previews** is a sales catalogue in which editorial features are a bonus, as is Capital's **Advance Comics**. Both do their jobs extremely well, but their precise aim is to sell product coming out in three months, whereas our aim is to be comprehensive and non-partisan.*

*I would hope you criticise such titles as the more expensive and far bulkier **Previews** for carrying so many ads, catalogues and listings of product which may interest you no more than some of our own.*

*Advertising, as in **Previews** and hopefully **Comics International**, should be a informative part of the magazine. Whether on new product alone, or in our case also events and old titles so you can fill wants or compare values and determine trends more accurately than a price guide ever could.*

*On your other points: **Mediafile** was created to report on the media's reaction to comics, not as a news feature. There are more than enough magazines already running transmission details.*

***ComicWatch** prints what it receives. We actively welcome aboard any new full-time retail voices. Blame the silent ones, not those who care enough to participate.*

***Reviews:** I hadn't realised our comics reviewers thought they could write "better than anybody". They may be nobodies to you, but only through achievement can one become a "somebody", if that is your aim. Perhaps you would care to submit a few reviews of your own to improve our standard?*

Thank you for the "politically correct" accolade, we've not nurtured such an image. But we do strive to be objective about the medium, to be accessible to outsiders, and to be non-partisan so readers and contributors can have their own say, such as you, without fear of editorial tweaking or insulting replies. Maybe we are politically correct after all.

Finally, the catalogues - which never affect the cover price or take pages from the editorial content. In an attempt to maintain a balance, I actually turned down two 64 page ads earlier this month. Stateside's catalogues obviously work for some readers as they wanted us to include them four times a year. But because others are looking at (albeit smaller) listings, we are now as a matter of policy placing restrictions to allow natural growth for new advertisers.

Like newspapers, being ad led means keeping the price low. Equally like newspapers, everybody doesn't read every page. But, as always, further opinions are welcomed. *(DGS)*

Adrian Shelley, 10 Berry Lane Basildon, Essex

This is an attempt to correct errors in issue 30 regarding censorship.

Sarah Bolesworth uses the term *snuff movie* frequently, yet such films probably don't exist. Certainly, none of the films seized at the Birmingham comic mart were of this sort, despite media claims to the contrary.

The scare-mongering present in Sarah's column is totally unwarranted and shouldn't be taken seriously. Raids will always occur from time to time, they are an annoyance that should be tolerated and nothing more.

The comments on adult comics are ignorant in the extreme. Titan Distributors monitor all potentially risky titles in advance, so very few dealers will be given the chance to see them let alone wrestle with the futile act of trying to define porn. Even then, self censorship never works as it is those against us who decide what they don't like; our views are be irrelevant. Yet Sarah says that it would be easy to address these problems. Dealers won't make long term plans to protect the industry because such plans would come to nothing.

Nick Vince's *Comment* in the same issue is more constructive, yet he shows a lack of understanding of both the law and the mood amongst most MPs over obscenity.

The Customs Act of 1976 was brought into line with our Obscenity laws in 1986. The real problem is the despicable section 3 of the Ob. Act, which allows Customs or the Police to seize material and then, after empty threats of prosecution, apply to a magistrate for a Destruction Order. Magistrates will almost invariably agree to this and the defendant has no way to stop it. The reason why Customs seem more extreme is that they are overstaffed and thus have more time to kill. Also Customs need no warrant to carry out raids, so it's a lot easier for them to hassle people.

Writing to your MP is bound to be futile as most of them want even-tougher anti-obscenity laws!

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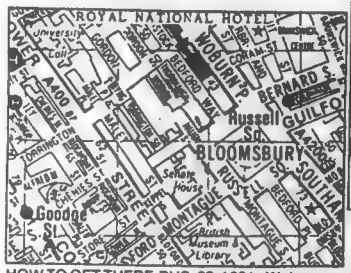

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For sale: **Terry and the Pirates** comic book by Milton Caniff. Issue number two. Published by Dell Publishing Co, New York. Copyright 1937. Covers strips printed in the **Chicago Tribune**, etc between 1935 and 1936. Further details and offers, tel: 081 693 2283.

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The Jack Kirby Quarterly, a fanzine dedicated to the King, is due sometime this summer. A must for all Kirby fanatics! Any comments and/or suggestions can be sent to: Chris Harper, 25 Napier Drive, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 7NW.

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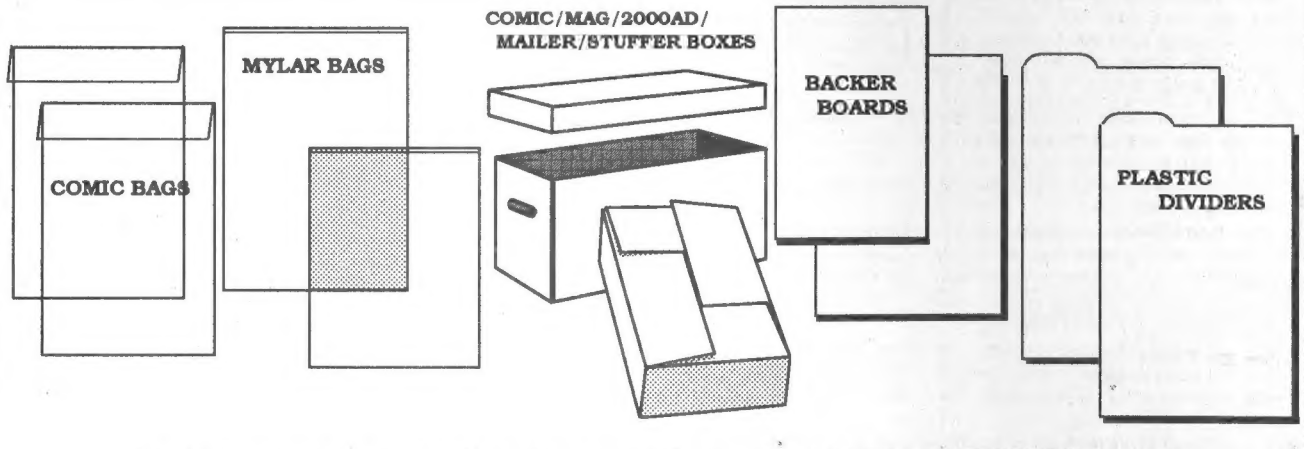

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eVENTS

An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page this issue where the advertisement with full details appears.

MAY

15/5 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 60)
22/5 **BEDFORD:** Animal Man Vertigo signing, Outer Limits, 4 The Broadway (p 24)
22/5 **BRISTOL:** Comic & Sci-Fi Mart, St John's Hall, Brislington (p 25)
23/5 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough St (p 58)
29/5 **KENT:** Monster Massacre mass launch signing at The Edge of Forever, 82b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent (p 22)
29/5 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 48)

JUNE

5/6 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, cancelled due to change in venue
6/6 **STEVENAGE:** Comic & TV/Sci-Fi Fair, Leisure Centre, Lytton Way (p 27)
12/6 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gelding Street (p 48)
13/6 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 75)
19/6 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 48)
26/6 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds (p 48)
26/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Concert Hall, Liverpool (p 26)
26/6 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster (p 60)
27/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Gladstone Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson St (p 48)
27/6 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 (p 45)
27/6 **LUTON:** Comic & TV/SF Fair, Vauxhall Recreation Centre, Osborne Rd (p 27)

JULY

4/7 **LONDON:** Comic Mart & Comicbook Auction, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 21)
10/7 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 48)
11/7 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street (p 48)
17/7 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 60)
18/7 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 58)
24/7 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 48)
31/7 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, The Hummingbird, Dale End (p 70)
31/7 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Concert Hall, Liverpool (p 26)

AUGUST

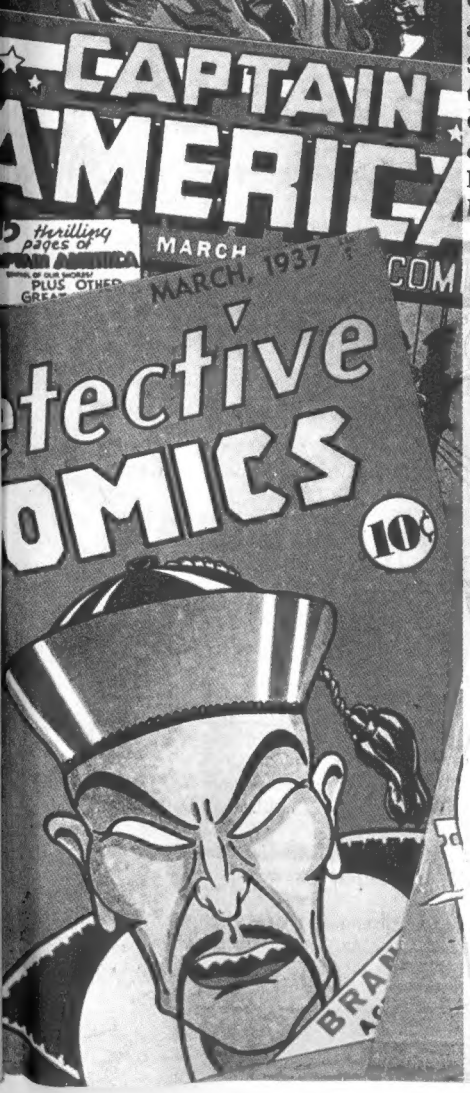
1/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Gladstone Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson St (p 48)
7/8 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds (p 48)
8/8 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 21)
14/8 **STOKE-ON-TRENT:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Harding Street (p 48)
22/8 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 (p 45)
28/8 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gelding Street (p 48)
30/8 **BRIGHTON:** Comic Mart, Brighton Centre (seafront), Kings Road (p 28)

SEPTEMBER

4/9 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster (p 60)
4/9 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 48)
5/9 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 58)
11/9 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 48)
12/9 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street (p 48)
18/9 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds (p 48)
18/9 **LONDON:** UK Comic Art Convention (2-day weekend event) (p 31)
25/9 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 60)
25/9 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 48)

OCTOBER

9/10 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster (p 60)
10/10 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 21)
16/10 **LONDON:** Edmonton Comic Mart, Picketts Lock Leisure Centre. (p 60)
16/10 **MANCHESTER:** Comic & Card Mart Special, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly, Manchester (p 48)
17/10 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 (p 45)
31/10 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 58)



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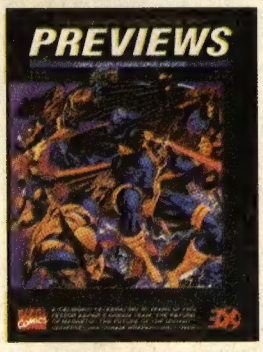

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